





# New panel to be formed to probe PA corruption

STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Several months after a withering report on corruption within the Palestinian Authority, legislators announced a new panel to investigate official improprieties as they renewed calls for the resignation of the cabinet of Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The committee will be headed by Ahmed Qurei (Ahu Ala), head of the Palestinian Legislative Council. He said that the committee will include former justice minister Frieih Abu Medein, Attorney-General Fayez Ahu Rahme, and several appointments to be made by Arafat.

PA sources said Arafat is encouraging the investigation as part of his drive to demonstrate to Palestinians that he wants to root out official corruption.

The announcement of the new committee was not welcomed by everybody. "We don't need another committee to investigate corruption," PLC member Hatem Abdul Khader, a Jerusalem representative who spearheaded the report on corruption, said. "We are finished with our committee. We issued a report and I am not enter-

ing another panel."

Abdul Khader said he spent two months working on the 60-page report, which was never released. He said he did not know whether Arafat has implemented its recommendations.

One recommendation not implemented by Arafat was the PLC's call for the dismissal of Arafat's cabinet. Abdul Khader said the need for such a step remains urgent. "We must follow this up," he said. "We want a new government."

The PLC is expected to hold a session today regarding the independence of the Palestinian judiciary, as well as PA corruption. The topic will also be discussed next week.

Palestinians appear to agree with the call for the dismissal of the cabinet. The latest poll conducted by the Nablus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies (CPRS) reports that 82.7 percent of those questioned support a cabinet reshuffle.

The poll also says 64.9% believe that the PA is corrupt and 38.2% expect the improprieties to increase.

Regarding the Palestinian media, the poll says that only

20.6% believe that the Palestinian newspapers are free from official influence. Nearly a quarter of those polled say the press is not free and 49.7% say it is free "to some extent."

Nabil Amr, a PLC member and aide to Arafat, did not dispute the figures. "Press freedom is connected to the level of the newspapers," he told Voice of Palestine Radio yesterday. "The level of the newspapers is weak. We want to distinguish between freedom of the press and complete openness. This doesn't exist in the Third World."

Amr dismissed the suggestion that Palestinian journalists are scared to practice their craft, pointing out that they are employees of the PA.

"I don't mean they are scared of the censor, but the fear is from other directions," said Fathi Barkawi, the host of the radio's "A New Day," said in an apparent reference to Arafat's security forces.

Amr did not give a direct reply. In the CPRS poll, 57.6% said Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot criticize the PA without fear of retaliation.



**Ras al-Amud office**  
Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian Authority official responsible for Jerusalem, receives guests yesterday outside his protest 'office tent' in Ras al-Amud. Moleket Party leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi called on the government to remove the tent, saying it threatens Israeli sovereignty on the Mount of Olives. (Yaac Harari)

# PA high court orders explanation for arrest of Hamas activist

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian High Court in Ramallah yesterday ordered the Palestinian Authority to explain the arrest of a suspected Hamas activist by PA security forces earlier this month.

The court gave Attorney-General Fayez Abu Rahme 15 days to explain why Mahmoud Muslih was arrested around September 4. Muslih, 56, from the Ramallah-area village of Ein Silwe, asserted that his detention was illegal and he was not charged with any crime.

Muslih was a member of the Islamic Charitable Society, and was arrested by Palestinian military intelligence. Bassam Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said the arrest stemmed from a presidential order from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"In such a case, every prosecutor will refer you to another prosecutor," said Eid, whose group has released a report on the PA justice system. "A civilian prosecutor will send you to a military prosecutor, because who is going to

deal with a presidential order?"

PA security forces have arrested about 80 Hamas activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following recent suicide bombing attacks in Jerusalem. They have also closed 16 Hamas institutions, including social service organizations and sports clubs.

Eid said hundreds of Palestinians languish in PA jails for up to 30 months without being tried or charged. Jordanian law, which still applies in the West Bank, requires that charges be filed or the detainee be released after 48 hours.

Also in Ramallah, Palestinian attorney Jawad Boulos said that 800 Palestinians in Israeli administrative detention will end their 14-month-old boycott of IDF appeals courts. Administrative detentions are usually for periods of six months and are often renewed.

"There is a promise from the Israeli prosecutor that the courts will be impartial," Boulos told a news conference, "and will not allow the intelligence apparatus to intervene in the cases." Boulos said 420 Palestinians have been

placed in administrative detentions since the suicide bombings in Jerusalem last month.

In a related development, PA authorities refused to allow the Israeli organization B'Tselem to investigate Saturday's explosion in the Ramallah-area village of Silwad, in which one child was killed and four injured. The children were between ages three and 10 and were apparently injured by an exploding mine.

Mazen Dandis, a field researcher for B'Tselem, said he tried to enter Ramallah Government Hospital on Sunday, but authorities prevented him from questioning the injured children. He said he was told to obtain a permit from the PA Health Ministry, which referred him to the Ramallah Military Governor's Office.

"They made me wait 26 hours and in the end they said wait," Dandis said. Dandis tried to speak to the mother of one of the injured children, but she said she could not respond without permission from PA authorities.

PA health officials could not be reached for comment.

# PA launches a drive to save universities

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian Authority Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi has launched a campaign to ensure university studies for 40,000 Palestinian students who, she said, are finding it increasingly difficult to pay for their education.

"I need to raise \$5 million a semester, or \$10 million a year," Ashrawi said. "We are facing an institutional breakdown in the public and private sector, and the last thing we need is for students to go out into the streets."

Ashrawi said she is trying to prevent students from striking to

protest plans to raise university fees. Currently, she said, students pay an average of \$350 per semester, about 25 percent of the real cost.

Student leaders and PA officials have been negotiating to prevent a steep rise in tuition. The students said they have been hurt by deteriorating economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PA officials have pledged that university students will pay the current rates, while new students will pay an undetermined increase that will be counted against a rate to be set in the future.

"The students know we have to

raise the fees," Ashrawi said. "The institutions can't continue like this. But we can't raise the fees so the students can't afford the tuition."

Ashrawi said the PA cannot raise funds to maintain current tuition fees. She said the authority has not instituted a tax to pay for higher education and has not succeeded in obtaining funds from donor nations.

As a result, Ashrawi is raising money from European Union nations. She said so far she has won a pledge of \$1 million from Holland, one-tenth of what the universities need for the coming school year.

# Peres berates Barak apology to Sephardim

By SARAH HONIG

Former Labor leader Shimon Peres yesterday dissociated himself forcefully from the apology his successor Ehud Barak made to Sephardim for "pain they suffered in the first years of the state."

"I see no need to apologize. I have no doubt that the aims in those days were pure and honorable. I cannot imagine that [David] Ben-Gurion would have seced any guilt about his grandiose project of the ingathering of the exiles," Peres said.

"The aim was to receive all Jews coming here as brethren and not to look condescendingly on any of them," he told reporters.

Peres added that "any emigration is a painful process and it is painful and difficult no matter what country one comes from. Emigration is as wrenching an experience as getting a heart transplant. It hurts ...

"Sure, when the first immigrants from North Africa arrived in Ashdod and saw before them a never-ending sea of sand, they cried. It was utter desolation. There was nothing there," he continued.

"Who would have thought that 40 years later there would be a beautiful, large, prosperous thriving city there. Today's children in Ashdod are hardly deprived," Peres said.

Peres argued that "rather than focusing on deprivation and making deprivation one's identity, the focus should be on accomplishment."

"Those who built a city in Ashdod accomplished a great feat and they should be proud of it. We should stress the achievement as a source of pride and not magnify and perpetuate a sense of discrimination which never existed."

"We in Labor have nothing to be sorry for or ashamed of but every reason for pride in what we

brought forth," he said.

Peres' initial reaction to Barak's apology at Sunday's Labor convention in Netivot was less severe. At the time he said he was "proud of the Labor legacy in the early days of the state."

Sources said that Peres had also gotten Barak to remove a phrase from his statement that would have said the apology was made in "the name of past Labor generations."

A senior source said that Peres chose to wait with his criticism to avoid making it a focus at the convention, where Barak was assured of getting majority support for the apology.

Peres also wanted to avoid being seen as foiling Barak's efforts to boost his electoral appeal, the source said.

Other sources described Peres as angry and even hurt that Barak presumed to apologize on behalf of past generations—including Peres—

as though he were trying to come off as more just or morally correct than they were.

Barak urged co-partisans in a New Year's toast at Labor headquarters yesterday "to conduct themselves as a Jew should in the ten days of repentance between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and refrain from attacking the prime minister and his government. These are days in which each Jew is obliged to engage in soul-searching and in promoting harmony."

Then on a less harmonious note, he asserted that "as we do our soul-searching, it will be clear to each of us that the past 15 months of the Netanyahu government were months of utter abysmal failure, with no peace, no security and no hope. My leadership could defeat despair and restore hope."

Some party employees, who are in a labor dispute with Barak, boycotted the toast.

# Palestinian who provided safe house for Waxman kidnappers captured

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinian who provided the safe house where Hamas terrorists held and later murdered kidnapped IDF soldier Cpl. Nahshon Waxman in 1994 has been held since he tried to slip back into the country from Jordan 11 days ago.

The Beit El military court yesterday remanded Ziad Zehudi Najib until October 6 on suspicion of aiding terrorists, the army said. Security forces are still interrogating Najib about his role in the October 1994 kidnapping.

Najib, of Bir Naballah, was detained after he crossed the Allenby Bridge on September 18. He owned the two-story house to which the Hamas terror cell brought Waxman after he was kidnapped while hitchhiking near Lod.

According to the charge sheet, Najib is the cousin of Zakaria Najib, the man responsible for providing the logistics for the terrorist squad. Najib banded over the keys to his cousin and later, according to the charge sheet, met with the four armed terrorists and was present when they videotaped Waxman alive.

Najib later delivered the tape, in which the kidnappers threatened to kill Waxman unless 200 Hamas activists were released, to Beit Hanina and gave the kidnappers food and clothing, the charge sheet said.

Two days before the fateful assault on the hideout, Najib fled with his wife to Jordan.

Maj. Nir Poraz, head of the commando unit which assaulted the house, was killed, as were three of the kidnappers. Waxman was found bound and dead inside. The IDF says he was shot at point-blank range by the terrorists.

# Detained Palestinians end court boycott

Eight hundred Palestinians under administrative detention have decided to end a 14-month boycott against appeals courts, hoping to get fair hearings, attorney Jawad Boulos said yesterday.

Boulos said the detainees had been boycotting military appeals courts since August 1996, deeming them unfair.

Administrative detainees are jailed for renewable six-month periods by military order without charges or trial. They have the right to appeal to a military court, but Boulos said intervention by the General Security Service subverts the judicial process and makes a farce of the appeals.

"The 800 Palestinian administrative detainees decided today they will again test the even-handedness of Israeli courts and, as of today, will return to courts to appeal against their illegal detention," Boulos told a news conference in Ramallah.

"There is promise from the IDF judge advocate-general that the courts will be impartial and will not allow the intelligence apparatus to intervene in the cases," he said.

Boulos said about 420 Palestinians were placed in administrative detention after the two recent terror bombings in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

**Silhot**

On the eve of Rosh Hashana, commentary on the validity of Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's apology to Sephardim dominated the Hebrew press.

"What should we apologize for?" asks Raya Herik in *Ma'ariv*. "For the attempts we made to absorb them, which they view as coercion? For our need to help, which is viewed as arrogance? That after two generations of taking root, it is easier to blame the 'establishment' for failures rather than accept responsibility for their own fate?"

Dan Margalit in *Ha'aretz* claims that the apology was justified and it is better late than never. "The apology is for the arrogance that led the social-democratic Ashkenazim to believe that they knew better than the Yemenites, the Moroccans, and the Iraqis what is best for them." He adds that the reason the Sephardi community supported the Likud was because it was rejected by Mapai.

"If Ehud Barak were to do his

homework, he would find that in this country there are many public representatives, among them MKs and former ministers, who make their living from ethnic incitement," states Mordechai Gilat in *Yediot Aharonot*. "These people should ask for forgiveness... but they would never do that... they are smart. Their name is not Ehud Barak."

**The Olmert verdict**

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's acquittal on charges of fraud will force the State Attorney's Office to conduct a penetrating policy review, says Asher Maoz in *Yediot*. He writes that "it is doubtful whether prosecuting [public figures] is always decided upon with the utmost discretion," and adds that unjust prosecution not only harms the accused, but also to the state. "The state's resources, whether the state attorney's or the courts', are limited and should be distributed with care."

*Ma'ariv's* Shalom Yerushalmi addresses the implication of the acquittal for the next election.

"On the national front, [Judge] Mudrick has opened the door to the Prime Minister's Office for Olmert." He states that Olmert has a good chance of overcoming any adversary from the Labor Party, therefore Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman, his director-general, fear him. "For both of them, Olmert's acquittal is a warning sign; Olmert fulfills the conditions to run for the leadership."

"Netanyahu's problem is that he is helpless as far as Olmert is concerned," asserts Yossi Verner in *Ha'aretz*, adding that Netanyahu cannot push Olmert against the wall and cause him to resign the way he did Dan Meridor and Ze'ev Begin. "[Olmert] is immune from any penalty and is now a concrete threat."

**Intelligent conclusions**

Netanyahu's rejection of a Military Intelligence evaluation that without the renewal of negotiations, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat could not

fight terror, provoked an assortment of opinions.

Moshe Zak in *Ma'ariv* justifies the prime minister's right to disregard intelligence judgements, stating that many leaders in the past have justifiably disregarded false conclusions. "Intelligence is not a meteorological station... it is meant to assemble authorized current information and not deal with prophecies that are usually a gamble," he writes.

"In his unprofessional hands, Netanyahu took the responsibility that no prime minister has ever taken," writes Oren Shohar in *Yediot*. "Taking personal responsibility in this matter is like taking no responsibility for the Israeli public."

**The strike failed**

"The 'general strike' was not at all general," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, referring to the lack of cooperation with Histadrut policy by different sectors. "The strike has achieved two things," he says. "It has caused public aggravation and economic damage."

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# High-tech answers to abuse

New protection devices give women a fighting chance against violence, but the technology has its limitations and could provide a false sense of security

By STEPHANIE SIMON

He's out there. Somewhere. And she's scared. He has promised to chop her into bits. Or shoot her.

She believes him too. He has hurt her already, so many times over so many years: slapped her, ruptured her eardrum, shoved her head through a wall, choked her until blood vessels burst in her eyes. Now he's out of jail. Out there. Out here. He knows where she lives, where she works, where she shops. And she's scared.

But though she trembles, she will not run. Delisa Miles is through with cowering.

And for the first time in her long struggle against domestic violence, the 34-year-old mother of three feels as though someone is backing her up.

For in her hometown in the Silicon Valley, and in communities across the United States, authorities have begun offering women like Miles technology to help them feel safe.

There are panic buttons to summon aid quickly, alarms to warn of approaching danger, computer-generated phone calls to announce that an abuser has posted bail.

No device can protect absolutely, of course, and critics worry that the new technology will give victims a false sense of security. But women like Miles welcome the programs as proof that, at long last, society is willing to try. The technology helps them defy the fear that is always there every minute he's out there.

The potential market for such high-tech security is huge: The FBI estimates that a woman is beaten by a spouse or lover every 9 to 12 seconds. "The offenders are like runaway trains — nothing can stop them," said David Beatty, director of public policy for the National Victim Center. "But technology is giving victims the means to step off the tracks." Miles, for instance, takes some



For the first time in her long struggle against domestic violence, Delisa Miles (right) is through cowering. Pictured with counselor Pam Butler, she wears like a badge an alarm pendant she can press when in danger. (Los Angeles Times by George Nikitin)

comfort from a panic-button pendant that she can press if her boyfriend tries to break into her house. Donated by an alarm company, the pendant will summon police at a touch.

Other victims carry free cellular phones distributed by law enforcement and programmed to dial only 911.

One of the new protective electronic tools is an automated notification system known as VINE that alerts women when their batterers walk free from jail. The system — already installed in 340 communities in 20 states — calls the victim

every two hours until she answers and punches in a code to prove she has heard the message.

Also on the market is an electronic surveillance device, being tested in Florida and Pennsylvania, that warns a victim if her abuser invades "hot zones" around her home or office. It builds on technology often used with probationers: The offender wears a bracelet that transmits his location to law enforcement. If he enters a forbidden zone — or cuts off the bracelet — he triggers a computer that dials the victim's phone or pager and alerts police.

For all this enthusiasm, victim

advocates are quick to note that the technology has limitations.

The alarm pendants, for instance, work only in a victim's home or yard. "When I step outside, I'm wide open," Miles said.

Also, the pendants require a functioning phone line, so an abuser could disable the system by ripping the phone from the wall.

Despite such glitches, victims and their advocates welcome the devices — as much for the message they send as for the results they get. At last, they say, they are being taken seriously, by officers, by politicians who fund the high-

tech programs and by corporate bigwigs who donate supplies.

But some victim advocates fear that high-tech programs might endanger women by lulling them into relaxing their guard.

"I honestly believe they give you a false sense of security," said Donna Diggins, who survived an abusive relationship years ago and counsels other victims.

She believes that battered women must leave town and change their names to stay safe. "If he wants you dead, you're going to be dead," Diggins said. (Los Angeles Times)

# Winnie for deputy president

The former wife of South African President Nelson Mandela could gain even more political power, despite new charges of murder

By GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE

JOHANNESBURG. South Africa — She is a convicted kidnapper who faces new allegations of murder, but Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is also a candidate for the deputy presidency of the ruling African National Congress, which her former husband heads.

It is the sort of brouhaha the fiery politician, once dubbed "Mother of the Nation," appears to love, but it places the ANC in an embarrassing dilemma.

Her selection this month by the women's wing of the ANC to be their candidate for the party's vice presidency could put her in line to become deputy president of the nation when her ex-husband steps down as president in 1999.

Nelson Mandela will resign from the party presidency at the ANC Congress in December, making way for his heir apparent, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, to replace him, first as party leader then, two years later, as national leader.

Madikizela-Mandela, president of the Women's League of the ANC, is a charismatic campaigner with a strong following within the party and must be considered a leading candidate for the deputy's post at both the party and national levels.

She is renowned for overcoming serious setbacks. In 1993, despite her conviction two years earlier for kidnapping 14-year-old ANC activist Stompie Seipei, who had fallen out of favor with her and was killed, and a well-publicized love affair with a young suitor, she was elected Women's League president.

Twelve months later she was voted onto the ANC's national executive council, drawing the fifth-highest vote tally. And in April, with controversy still swirling around her, she was re-elected Women's League president, beating her only opponent by a 5-1 margin.

Her accession to national power would send shock waves through the party leadership, which is adopting a gradual approach to social reform and striving to stick to a middle-of-the-road economic strategy to keep its union allies and big business in line and to attract foreign investment.

Madikizela-Mandela, a populist champion of the poor and an unabashed Africanist, is devoted to improving the lives, health homes and education of the disadvantaged and to empowering blacks through stronger affirmative action programs.

All this is in line with government priorities, but she is much less patient and accommodating than have been her former husband and his Cabinet.

With her in a leadership position, a myriad of policy strains, inside and outside the party, would likely surface.

Her influence on policy would likely increase the concerns of the white minority, threatening an accelerated exodus, a brain drain that South Africa, bedeviled by low economic growth, can ill afford. And, analysts say, foreign investors would hardly be reassured by the elevation of such a flamboyant leftist, possibly putting a crimp on overseas financing the country sorely needs.

But her political prospects are hostage, to an extent, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which this week will investigate her involvement in the death of Seipei and the disappearance of two other youths during the 1980s. The hearing will be in Johannesburg, behind closed doors.

Madikizela-Mandela has challenged the commission to hold the hearings in public, which the panel has refused to do. Her lawyers say they need more time to prepare.

"Unless the Truth and Reconciliation Commission clears Madikizela-Mandela of these charges, her continued political ascent could do irreparable harm to the ANC and the country as a whole," says the Financial Mail, a business-oriented weekly magazine.

Madikizela-Mandela remains unfazed. No sooner had new allegations of her involvement in the murder of Seipei been published than she called a news conference to declare her innocence and to state that she was ready to bare my soul to the scrutiny of my country and beg that these issues be tested by the vigilance of the public.

The charges come from a former member of her Mandela United Football Club, a group of young, violent supporters she gathered around her in the 1980s. Her accuser is Katiza Cebekhulu, a suspected police informer who was accused with her in the Seipei kidnapping case but disappeared on the eve of the trial. He accuses Madikizela-Mandela of stabbing Seipei at her house, and has asked the Truth Commission for amnesty for his involvement in the crime.

Madikizela-Mandela has maintained she was out of town when Seipei was killed in December 1988.

The question of who is telling the truth now goes to the truth commission. But the question of Madikizela-Mandela's political future may take longer to resolve. (The Baltimore Sun)

# France warms up to Jospin

Four months after he unexpectedly came to power, France's Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin is keeping most of his leftist campaign promises

By ANNE SWARDSON

PARIS. Lionel Jospin's election in June was viewed by much of the outside world as a sign that France remained unready to enter the world of high technology and global competition. During the election campaign he talked mostly about public-sector jobs and shorter working hours.

But since then Jospin has picked his way through the traditional minefields of French politics — militant unions, a public wedded to generous benefits, widespread resistance to any change — without breaking the budget or losing public favor. He has even proposed Internet-friendly policies, a large change in one of Europe's least-wired nations.

Jospin's recent budget proposal is an example of how he has combined his leftist agenda with the

demands of the world at large. By cutting defense spending, raising corporate taxes and ending some benefits for better-off families, he is bringing France within shouting distance of the fiscal criteria for nations wishing to join Europe's planned single currency beginning in 1999.

From the point of view of the average French citizen, there has been little material change since Liooel Jospin was elected last June. But people seem to feel better, polls suggest. Few who voted up the potential cost of his campaign promises last spring would have thought that possible.

Jospin, running at nearly 60 percent approval in the polls these days, has achieved his successes by following what he calls a path of "leftist realism." He has nipped and tucked at areas relatively removed from the central concerns of French voters, such as privati-

zation of state-owned enterprises, while adhering to his expensive campaign promises on such red-hot issues as job creation.

His path, for the moment at least, has achieved a swift result: The French, mired in pessimism for years, are becoming more optimistic, according to opinion polls. "People had very low expectations, and they are discovering they have gotten more than they expected," said Olivier Duhamel, a political science professor.

Jospin's popularity comes at a price, analysts say. By and large, he has not undertaken the tough reforms other European countries have to prepare for global competition, and he does not plan to. France remains a heavily statist country, with such businesses as the national telephone company and the national airline under government control for the foreseeable future.

His new budget relies largely on tax increases, on corporations and families, for its progress in deficit reduction, thus leaving France still with one of the highest tax burdens in the developed world.

Jospin also has been aided by faster-than-expected economic growth, which increases government revenue.

Nor has France's high unemployment rate of 12.5 percent been reduced in Jospin's tenure. France's restive unions and Jospin's Communist allies in Parliament have given him running room so far, but it may not last.

Still, public sentiment is far cheerier here than it was a year ago. Back then, the talk was of "moroseness" and whether France would ever recover from its fundamental pessimism. Magazines were publishing cover stories asking if France was a failure; one newspaper columnist said it was

"in a breakdown of growth, confidence and hope."

From the point of view of the average citizen, there has been little material change since then. But people seem to feel better. A poll by the firm CSA found that only 13 percent of respondents thought things were getting worse, while 33 percent saw improvement and 51 percent saw no change. A year ago, 54 percent were pessimistic about the future.

Jospin himself is riding high in the opinion polls. A survey released Friday showed his approval rating at 58 percent, up from 44 percent when he was elected in June.

Conservative President Jacques Chirac, who shares power with Jospin and is fighting to remain relevant, was running at 46 percent, according to the poll by the IPSOS organization. (The Washington Post)

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# Pupils who write their own ten commandments

## Can you teach religious and secular youngsters Jewish tradition in the same classroom? Aryeh Dean Cohen visited the mixed settlement of Tekoa to learn how it's being done

There's something different about the Ahdut Yisrael school in Tekoa, including their Ten Commandments.

While other schools make do with traditional explanations of the Thou Shalt and Shall Not, Tekoa youngsters write their own list of commandments. That is just one example of an exercise in a school where the approach to learning about Jewish tradition is uniquely tailored to the school's unusual student body: observant and non-observant youngsters, studying in the same classrooms.

"Before we started learning about the Ten Commandments, we divided up the class and held group discussions on what the main laws should be in our society," explained third-grade teacher Hadassah Froman, the wife of Rabbi Menahem Froman of Tekoa. The rabbi is famous for his somewhat controversial dialogues with Islamic leaders.

"We discussed what laws we would establish in our classroom and the children each wrote 10 laws they thought were the most important, so that our society would be a better one."

A visitor could see some examples still on the board: "Don't turn your back on people" and "Don't destroy nature." Other "commandments" related to road safety.

Third-graders raced by; some boys wore *kipot*, others baseball caps. Still others had no head covering. Some of the girls had traditional below-the-knee denim skirts, while others wore colorful shorts.

"Our approach is that the Torah is really the basis for other ideas that man needs to have for himself now," explained Froman. "And

each child takes this in the direction they want. They don't all have to think the same thing, or interpret it a particular way. It's all a legitimate form of expression.

"That's what I think is really special about learning in a mixed class," Froman adds. Everyone has his or her equal place.

"Observant children's opinions are not given any higher consideration than nonobservant children's regarding the way they relate to the sources, or to their tradition."

The school has been operating for 10 years. Principal Nava Malkiel calls it "a natural outgrowth" of the settlement of Tekoa, located in Gush Etzion south of Jerusalem and not far from Efrat, where observant and nonobservant Jews live. Residents

of nearby Nokdim, also a mixed community, send their children to the school as well.

According to Malkiel, there are equal numbers of observant and nonobservant pupils, and about 10-15 percent who come from families that are mixed, or consider themselves traditional.

"The guiding principle," said Malkiel, who is on sabbatical this year, "is that the meeting between the two groups be a true meeting. One doesn't always know what will come out of this, but we really try to leave it open, and provide a place for every child, regardless of his or her background."

Formally the school is part of the State Religious system, but, says Malkiel, the school holds a special status in the Education

Ministry, whose officials "visit a great deal."

"The school is simply an expression of the wider experiment which is our entire settlement," says Malkiel. "It's a place where we have all lived together for years. The criteria for judging each other are not what one ordinarily finds," she says.

Unlike other schools experimenting with having observant and nonobservant pupils study different materials under the same roof [see box], Ahdut Yisrael classes all study the same curriculum. "Just as an observant child needs to study art, music and geography," comments Malkiel, "a nonobservant child needs to know his people's sources. It doesn't matter whether the family is observant or not - they need to know their heritage and tradition."

While pupils can choose between attending morning prayers or a "morning assembly," that choice is not always so clear-cut. Some observant youngsters opt to pray at home with their parents and go to the assembly. Some nonobservant children choose to go to morning prayers, "and we have some who switch in the middle of the year," Malkiel says.

There is no dress code, she points out.

"We all know that there isn't anyone here who 'knows better' than anyone else. That's very important, especially as regards the observant population, who always feel that they have the truth in their pocket."

Malkiel and her staff like the innovations a mixed school allows them to introduce. "I don't find anything particularly difficult about this approach - just the opposite; it provides us with challenges, and that's a good thing. I think the greatest challenge is to find the way to bring the world of the Jewish sources to children."

"It's a world that sometimes seems old-fashioned, archaic, and not relevant. It's hard to get this through to elementary school pupils in general, even observant ones. But it's even harder to get it across to children for whom this is not their natural background."

"This challenge also helps us teach the observant children better. We have to ask ourselves more questions about how to present material."

Living in a rural setting contributes to this approach, Malkiel says. "We learn a great deal of our Bible via the environment, nature and agriculture. If, for example, we're studying about the harvesting of wheat in the Bible, we grow our own wheat. We go through the entire process and make bread in the end."

"So you don't have a situation where you have a class in Bible and another in nature. Rather, the two are merged. This is a good way to teach children, because their world is still very unified."

In the well-stocked school library, some of the pupils talked about the advantages of studying with classmates from different backgrounds.

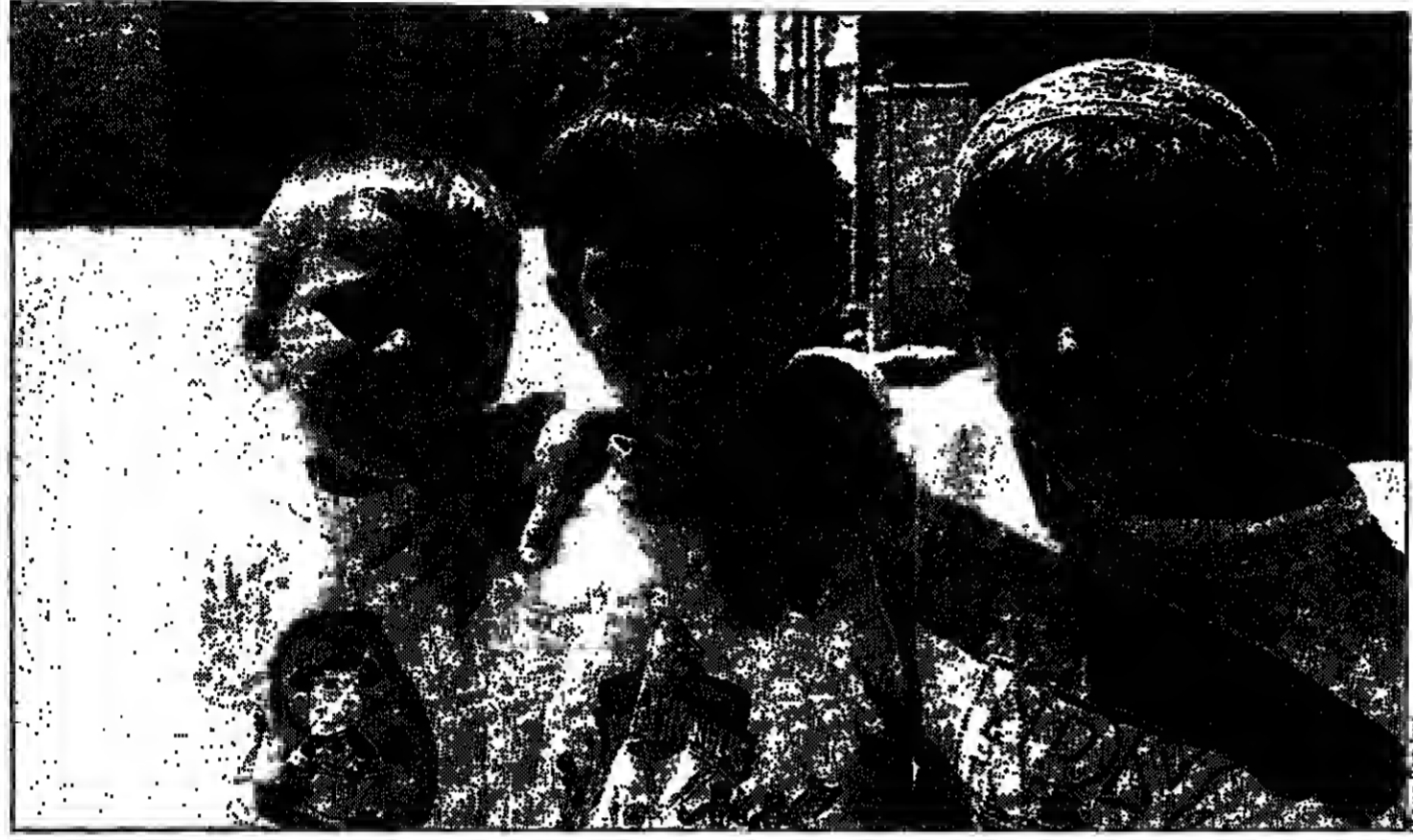
"It raises my level of social awareness," commented Hananel Unger, 11, a sixth grader. "It makes me able to get along with many different kinds of people."

"It helps me understand where they're coming from, to get into their head," explained Nachman Malkiel, also 11 and the principal's son. "They learn about my religious observance, and my way of life, just like I learn from them."

ers her."

Observant Malkiel: "One observant child said that if she went to a strictly religious school it would be very boring. She said it was more interesting to be with children who dress, think and eat differently. Observant children are curious about this, and it interests them."

"A secular child said he didn't understand why observant and secular children need to be separated."



"At my last school there weren't too many observant kids, but now I can learn things from them I didn't know before. And I'm interested." —Bella, a secular sixth grader



"At the school I went to with all observant kids, none of them played soccer or basketball. But all secular kids play basketball." —Ya'acov, a religious fifth grader

## Coexisting in the classroom

The school at Tekoa is not the only educational institution where observant and secular youngsters are getting to know each other in classroom settings. Today there are close to a dozen such schools, following three main models of coexistence.

"The difference between the various get-togethers is one of intensity," explained Amira Perlov of Drachim, an organization established in 1996 to fight "a worrisome trend toward division in the Israeli public."

"There are some forums where the pupils meet informally and infrequently, perhaps once a week, others where they study together all the time. What they have in common is joint study; it's not just a social get-together to discuss beliefs."

An example of the least intensive model is an experiment conducted last year by pupils from three high schools, the Gonen High School affiliated with the Labor Movement, the Pelech High School and the Mekor Haim Yeshiva.

The three schools held separate sessions for boys and girls in a *beit midrash* format, studying texts from literature and political science. They also examined classical Jewish texts, focusing on Rabbi Yohanan Ben-Zakai and Rabbi Akiva as examples of different responses in times of crisis. Democracy and current affairs were also discussed.

"The pupils, says Perlov, found they were wrong to think that the observant are only interested in presenting religious sources."

"One of the teachers from the yeshiva had a background in political science, and wanted to include political texts; one from Gonen liked literature, and wanted to include *midrash*. So even for the teachers the meetings broke stereotypes. The pupils saw that people can still study together despite disagreements," she commented.

Perlov said the capital's Himmelfarb and Boyar high schools have also held similar encounters, initiated following Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

The second model is a joint campus shared by separate schools for observant and secular pupils. The Kochav Yair elementary schools, for example, share a schoolyard and a library and participate in joint activities, particularly around the holidays. Some subjects, like English, math or geography, are studied together for technical reasons or simply convenience.

The third - and most intensive - program involves the two groups actually studying all subjects in the same building: Tekoa, Jerusalem's Keshet school and Kfar Adumim, the oldest such model, founded 18 years ago.

At Kfar Adumim, as at Tekoa, there are alternative activities to prayer, and pupils can opt for more intensive history, art or geography classes instead of Mishna, Gemara or Jewish law.

"We don't ask families to classify themselves," explains Perlov, stressing that the

important thing is that the children live and grow up together.

It's all perfectly normal for them, she says. "It's too bad that this doesn't exist in Israeli society as a whole. Instead, the children know at an early age that they are 'secular,' or 'observant,' and that's it."

"Israeli society will look different in another 15 years if we establish these projects on a wide scale," Perlov believes.

She likes to tell the story of some eighth-grade boys from Kfar Adumim who decided they didn't want to pray with the younger children anymore. When school officials refused to allow them to pray on their own, they took action.

"They just decided that they weren't going to pray with the rest of the school," Perlov relates, "but they didn't have enough boys for a *minyan*. So their secular classmates agreed to join them - even though it meant waking up earlier than usual. To fight the establishment, it was worth it. After all, the synagogue wasn't foreign to them; it was part of their lives too."

In the end, however, Perlov notes, "most of the children turn out much like they are at home." Education Ministry officials, particularly in the newly-founded Administration for Values Education, are encouraging Drachim to interest other schools, teachers and parents in their ideas. Interested parents or teachers can contact Perlov and Drachim at (02) 535-4425. A.D.C.

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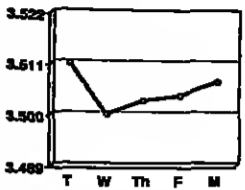
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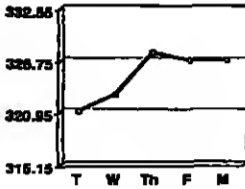


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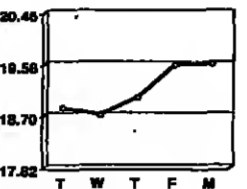
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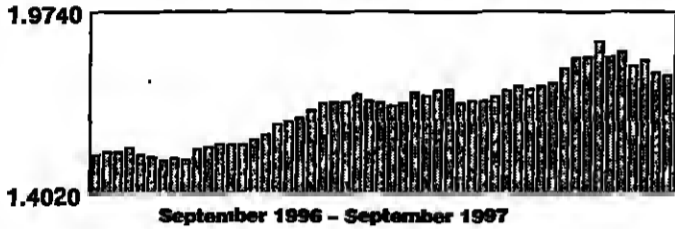


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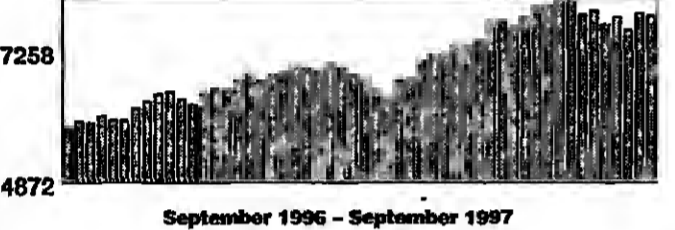
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### Yehezkel: Reducing int'l reps. will hurt growth

A Treasury plan to reduce activities of government representatives abroad would cause a slowdown in economic growth, Labor MK Avi Yehezkel, and chairman of the Economics Committee, said yesterday.

He responded to a proposal to streamline the budget for attaches, by requiring the envoys to work for more than one ministry, or to replace some with local hires.

Supporting an attaché abroad costs about \$200,000 per year, four-times more than hiring local people, officials said. Local hires wouldn't be entitled to perks such as family support stipends, rent, and children's school tuition which are paid to the attaches.

Opponents of the proposal cautioned that Israeli attaches could generate more business for the country by specializing in one area, such as trade, tourism or agriculture. Jennifer Friedlin

## Knesset Finance Committee approves Hapoalim sale

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday unanimously approved the government's sale of a 43 percent stake in Bank Hapoalim to a consortium headed by billionaire Ted Arison.

The official signing ceremony was to take place this morning. The vote came after one week of negotiations regarding workers' provisions. Yesterday, MI Holdings, the government authority responsible for selling banks, announced it would side with the Histadrut and require the Arison group to continue providing workers' benefits by the current collective agreement.

"We stood for the rights of the workers and if we had not pushed

for this agreement, they would have been hurt," said Zion Shama, head of the Histadrut's bank division.

Arison won the bid to become the controlling shareholder in Israel's largest bank several weeks ago, but final approval was delayed over disagreements regarding workers' contracts.

The Arison group said in a statement that it was very happy with the decision and would start looking for a new director general.

Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz of United Torah Judaism congratulated the parties, saying the agreement represented a positive step in support of workers' rights.

"As a member of the [KFC], I am proud to be a part of the decision,

which defends the workers," Ravitz said.

MK Arnon Rubinstein of Meretz told the committee that it must make sure that the money raised from the sale does not get lost in a labyrinth before reaching government coffers.

The Arison group, which paid NIS 4.8b. for the 43% stake, has said it also planned to exercise its option to acquire an additional 21.5% of the bank within 18 months.

Arison will pay the government the same price it did for the original stake.

The second acquisition would put Arison in control of about 64.5% of the bank. The government would continue to hold 5% while workers

would hold 7%. The remaining shares are traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The government has so far raised NIS 7.2 billion in 1997 through the sale of state assets, exceeding its goal for the year of NIS 4.3b.

Accountant General Shai Talmon said he expects the government to raise a total of NIS 9b., once options have been exercised for Bank Leumi and Discount Bank.

The government said it would begin discussing the sale of Lod and Ramleh's District Development Company next week. It has also decided to sell its 82% stake in the Afridar real estate company and its 75% holding in the wild grass clearing company Wild Grass Extermination.

## CBS: Zero growth expected in 1997

By DAVID HARRIS

Government figures published yesterday indicate that the economy is at a standstill.

The Central Bureau of Statistics forecasted 1997 growth in gross domestic product at 2 to 2.5 percent, while population increase has been 2.3% annually. This means that in real terms, there is at best a freeze in economic growth and also in per capita gross national product.

Private consumption is also frozen or in decline, government statistician, Joseph Yahav, said. "We've passed from economic growth to stagnation," Yahav said in presenting the 1997 Statistical Abstract.

The news, he said is "not good, it's even bad."

But Yahav stopped short of saying there was a recession, calling the term "a little strong."

He predicted that 1997 would be a turning point. Growth potential is still at 5 to 6%, he said. "The best way to see it [1997] is like a plane coming in land and then taking off again."

But political or security factors such as terror attacks could inhibit growth since they tend to inhibit such activities as construction and tourism, he said.

Still, Yahav wouldn't draw any link between increased violence and a decline in investments in 1997. He said the slowdown must also be viewed in the context that investments were quite high in 1995 and 1996.

If the current trend in foreign trade continues, 1997 could be the first year this decade in which the trade deficit shrinks, according to the Bureau's figures.

The current deficit estimate by year's end is \$10 billion, compared to \$11b. in 1996. Through the 1990s, the deficit has increased at an annual 15%.

The principal reason for the improved-trade figures is that trade and service exports jumped 10% in the first half of 1997, reaching \$16.2b. Imports, on the other hand, remained stable.



### Upping the ante

Striking oil workers in Kuwait play cards at their union headquarters yesterday. Kuwait National Petroleum Company workers have threatened to gradually widen their strike at the Mina al-Ahmadi crude and product exports terminal to include other operations.

## Neeman: No tax on city company bonds

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday he favored granting municipal companies the same tax exemptions for bond issues as Treasury issues.

Neeman, who spoke in Jerusalem at a seminar on municipal bonds, said city companies should be allowed to issue bonds tax-free as long as they have no links with municipal authorities.

"There must be a Chinese wall separating the corporations from the municipalities. This must be a separate entity which is economically and judicially independent of the authority," he said.

He added that to achieve such separation he was willing to give tax exemptions to all transactions of assets to these companies.

The Union of Local Authorities in Israel said it has started attributing national significance to judicial procedures for issuing municipal bonds designated for special projects.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said the first initiative was born three years ago when the capital sought to issue bonds abroad. He added that local authorities could use debt issue to raise capital for special projects. Olmert thought the current political situation should not hurt such issues.

Local authorities are interested in issuing bonds as a cheap means of raising capital, and to lower their reliance on the central government. The current Cities and Municipalities Law and Companies Law prevent such debt issues.

Experts said it would take local authorities 6-10 years to make changes needed to issue debt, such as adjusting accounting procedures to Securities Authority requirements.

## UK's Brown to hold down public spending

By DAVID HEALY

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown pledged a tough regime of holding down public spending, including curbs on state workers' wages, to keep the economy "on track" for stable growth next year.

In a key policy speech to the annual conference of the ruling Labor Party, Brown said this is the only route to implementing the government's aims to boost spending on education and health.

"I'm now more optimistic that the economy can be back on track next year," he told delegates at the southern England resort of Brighton. He said the "boom to hush" years of the previous Conservative government, which doubled the national debt in its last five years, are over.

"You can't build the new Jerusalem on a mountain of debt. That's why with our deficit reduction plan for public borrowing, with our tough reforms at the Bank of England, with the interest rate rises made necessary by Conservative mistakes, Britain has

begun to break from Tory short-termism," he said.

Brown gave the central bank operational independence to set rates to hit a strict inflation target of 3 percent soon after taking office on May 1. It has raised the base rate four times, to the current 7%, as inflation hovers around the 3% mark.

Brown said the government would seek early moves to reduce the lowest rate of income tax from 20% to 10% to encourage people off state benefits and back into work. He pledged to bring "full employment for the 21st century, an employment opportunity for all in every part of Britain," though he did not spell out his definition of full employment. Most economists define it as unemployment levels of 3% or less; Brown said it was "jobs for all who want them."

Brown, who's described himself as an "iron chancellor," said the new Labor government had learned from past mistakes of its predecessors. "Just as you can't spend your way out of recession, you can't, in a global economy, simply spend your way through a recovery

either," he said.

With growth rates around an annual 3.5% and unemployment of under 7%, well below the European union average, Britain currently has one of the strongest economies in Europe.

"There will be no risks with inflation, no irresponsible fine tuning, no massaging of the figures, no short-term dashes for growth, but a long-term strategy for our public finances, the encouragement of investment for the future and, in place of boom and bust, stability," Brown told the conference.

He said he wouldn't make the same errors as previous Labor administrations "which failed to take the tough long-term decisions for change early on."

"It's only by being prudent and disciplined now, building a platform for long-term stability, that we will be able to deliver the people's priorities for health and education in the years ahead."

"That's why in our spending reviews all our decisions, including pay settlements right across the board, will be guided by firmness and fairness," he said.

This would mean restraint in setting pay for 5 million state workers, from teachers and nurses to government officials and park keepers, the government has said.

"If Britain's economy is to succeed it can do so only by putting employment and education opportunities, once in the hands of the few, into the hands of the many," Brown said, adding this included creating economic opportunities for all, and "fair" tax changes which encouraged jobs.

"That's why we're examining a new tax credit for the low paid to be paid direct through the wage packet, the reform of national insurance to encourage work and implementing our 10% tax rate all underpinned by the national minimum wage."

The government has established a commission to fix the rate of the national minimum wage, which has yet to report.

Brown said on social issues, the Labor government would divert money from private health care and schooling into the state-run National Health Service and public education. Bloomberg

## Shilov gets patent for HIV detection method

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Shilov Medical Technologies of Rehovot yesterday announced it received a US patent for its method of detecting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Unlike most testing methods which cannot detect the virus in blood that has been recently infected, Shilov's technology is able to identify antibodies that indicate the virus is present, even early on, the company said. "These products are designed to improve the early detection of life-threatening infectious diseases," said Tamar Jehuda-Cohen, chairwoman of Shilov.

More effective testing could curb the spread of AIDS by reducing the amount of contaminated blood entering the blood supply, she said.

Shilov's product, the HIV ShilovTube, is being studied as a blood pre-treatment device for the earlier and more accurate detection of HIV antibodies. The firm expects to begin US clinical trials of the technology this year. Shilov has received a license for use in Mexico and it is under review in South Africa, Kenya and here.

The company is also developing pre-treatment products for the early detection of the viruses that cause Hepatitis C and leukemia.

## Insurers to provide 80% of guarantees to home buyers

Globe News Service

Insurance companies will be permitted to extend 80% of the guarantees to home buyers under the Sale Law.

This was agreed at a meeting held last week between Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Aboles, Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer, and Shikun U'bini general manager Uzi Verdizer, representing the Building Contractors Association.

The new method, being launched at Aboles' initiative, will lead to a revolutionary change in construction finance policy, and will stimulate activity in the sector.

The agreement lays down that the insurance companies will give guarantees up to a ceiling of 80% of the number of housing units in any project.

The banks will give guarantees for the remaining units. The balance of bank guarantees to the industry today is some NIS 25 billion.

Industry sources estimate that, within a short time, 40% of the guarantees, NIS 10 billion, will be transferred from the banks to the insurance companies. This will enable the banks to increase financial coverage for contractors to finance projects by billions of shekels.

The new order should considerably alleviate the credit shortage in the real estate industry, improving contractors' liquidity, and leading to a substantial increase in building starts next year.

Total bank credit to the construction industry is now NIS 84 billion.

Transferring NIS 10 billion in guarantees from the banks to the insurance companies is likely to enable the banks to increase credit to the industry by a similar amount.

This will enable several banks, which have almost stopped providing financial coverage recently, because they had reached their limits, to renew the grant of credit.

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BITS & BYTES

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ACS raises \$6 million in Wall St. IPO: ACS Electronics Ltd., Migdal Ha'emek-based maker of fully digital motion control products, raised \$6m. in an initial public offering on the Nasdaq Small Cap Market. ACS sold 1.2 million shares at \$5 per share. The sale was led by Hampshire Securities.

Cimatron wins Diadora contract: Cimatron, a Givat Shmuel-based maker of mechanical engineering tools, has received a contract to supply Italian athletic shoes and clothing manufacturer Diadora with solutions for the design of shoe soles. SOLFAST, a customized user program, allows the user to digitize one shoe sole and manipulate the model to produce the entire range of shoe sizes.

MINT Technologies receives \$1m. order: MINT Technologies, a subsidiary of Herzliya-based OSHAP Technologies, received a

\$1m. order from an undisclosed telecom provider for its financial software solution. The MINT products are designed to provide payment-clearing services. This is MINT's largest offer ever.

Orbotec receives \$5.8m. order from Hutchinson Technology: Orbotec Ltd. of Yavne recently announced that it received orders totaling \$5.8m. from Hutchinson Technology Ltd., a Minnesota-based supplier of suspension assemblies for hard-disk drives. Orbotec designs and develops automated optical inspection systems for the manufacture of printed circuit boards.

Spegas Industries Ltd. raises \$4.2m. in private placement: Spegas Industries, a maker of non-invasive gas analyzers, raised \$4.2m. from investors including Advent, Gemini Israel II and Kardan Technology

Ventures. Established in 1987, Spegas has developed a proprietary technology for analyzing the level of carbon dioxide in exhaled breath, which can be used for the real-time diagnosis and monitoring of ulcers. Spegas has strategic partnerships with companies such as Nellcor Puritan Bennett, Hewlett Packard and Nihon Kodin. The financing was carried out by Jerusalem Global.

Tower Semiconductor announces multi-year agreement: Tower Semiconductor of Migdal Ha'emek has announced that it received a multi-year contract to supply memory chips to Chip Express Corporation of Silicon Valley, California. According to the terms of the agreement, Tower will supply Chip Express with wafers fabricated using Tower's advanced manufacturing processes. Chip Express will use the generic wafers for prototyping and manufacturing.

# Wave of the future

Israeli researchers are completing a one-of-a-kind software package designed to protect harbors worldwide from unexpected choppy waters

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Where do you go to seek safety in a storm when you're out at sea? The answer, of course is a harbor. But what happens when the harbor cannot protect your ship? Every year millions of dollars worth of damage is done to moored ships when waves penetrate the harbor's defenses through the entrance.

In a well-designed harbor this may happen only a few days every year, but even so the surprise element means that unloading delays, and damage to ships and quays, is hard to prevent and losses can range from minor to phenomenal. Now an Israeli research team believes it may have found a way to prevent some of these losses with a unique development that can forecast wind and wave activity in a harbor or port up to 48 hours in advance.

The advanced hydroinformatics system, in essence a fully-automated software package, was developed by the Coastal and Marine Engineering Research Institute (Cameri), at the Technion University in Haifa. A pilot scheme is now being installed in Haifa Port, and Prof. Michael Stiassnie, director of Cameri, believes that next year the system will be sold to at least two ports overseas.

The development, called Sea 21, is designed mostly for owners of marine installations, such as harbors, marinas, ports, offshore terminals and long piers - most of which are located in shallow water of less than 15 meters or so.

Up till now, it has been impossible to predict when destructive waves will enter these installations, says Stiassnie. "In advanced countries, weather bureaus do give forecasts for sea conditions in the days ahead as part of their daily routine, but the forecasts are almost always for deep water [depths of more than 50 meters], rather than for coastal waters, and waves go through a substantial change when they move from deep to shallow water."

Not all waves are a problem, however. "Usually the waves we can see are the ones generated by the wind. They have a typical length of about 100 meters. Sometimes though, particularly during storms, these wind waves generate additional unseen waves, called long waves, as they reach shallow water. These have a typical length of a kilometer or more. The height is significantly smaller than that of the original wind waves, but their ability to penetrate the harbor through the sea opening is significantly larger.

"When they do this, they set the whole harbor in motion, like tipping water in a cup. This sets all the ships moving. If this movement is small, it's not a problem, but if it increases over a certain threshold it causes difficulties."

If a ship or vessel is moving more than one meter back and forth, for instance, it can snap mooring lines, damage itself or neighboring ships, wreck the quay and even endanger human life. Bills can run into millions of dollars. In addition, the long waves can halt all loading and unloading. If a ship is delayed even for just a day, this can cost shipping compa-

nies tens of thousands of dollars. While some harbors are more affected by this problem than others, nearly every harbor in the world suffers from it at one time or another. "It's unavoidable," says Stiassnie.

Often specific areas of the port are more at risk than others. In Haifa Port's eastern quay, for example, part of the harbor is affected by these waves for a few days every year. "It always comes as a surprise, though," says Stiassnie. "And we don't want surprises."

For open installations such as

Cameri, which is jointly owned by the Technion and the Israel Ports and Railways Authority, began work on this project about two years ago.

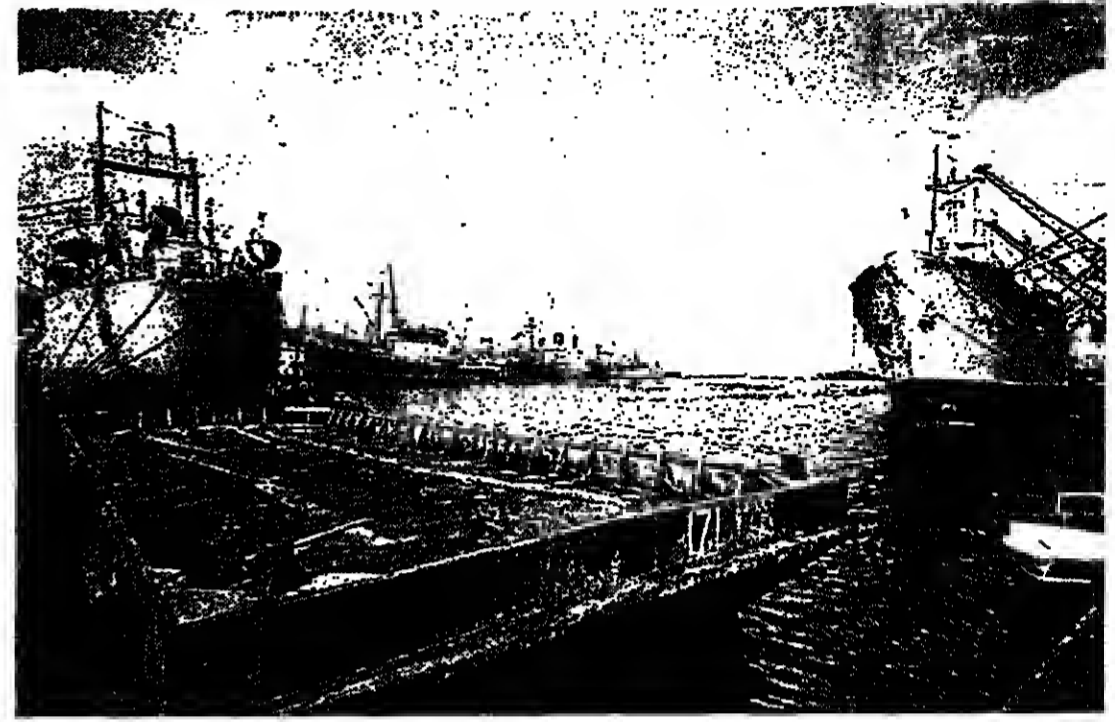
The idea stemmed from research being carried out for the Ports Authority in connection with the planned expansion of both the Ashdod and Haifa ports. Cameri's job is to help the authority find ways to optimize the future shape of the two harbors so they can be operated all year round.

"We were looking for an idea that could turn our numerical work into a commercial advantage,"

itself, so earlier this year he signed a marketing contract with British company HR Wallingford, the world's leading laboratory in coastal engineering.

Wallingford is to begin marketing the system toward the end of this year in Europe, South East Asia, India and South America. Cameri is now looking for a good connection in the US market.

Interest in Sea 21 is high. Though Stiassnie has in the past been reluctant to publish too many details about the project because it's still in the final stages of development, and marketing has-



A pilot of Sea 21, which analyzes wave propagation, local winds and the shape of the bay, is now being installed here in Haifa Port. (David Rubinger)

MOToring

## In the 'hot' Seat

The Ibiza GTI has been designed and marketed for the young and the restless



By JOEL GORDIN

When the Spanish company Seat (pronounced see-at) was taken over by Germany's Volkswagen at the end of the last decade, it gained the unfortunate reputation of "a poor person's VW." However, only a few years later, VW bought the Czech company Skoda and the managers from Wolfsburg decided Skoda would be the "popular-priced" car, while Seat would become "the car for the young and restless" or, if you prefer, "the young person's VW."

The image was given a boost last year when a Seat Ibiza won the class 2 (known as the F2) world rally championships. In Israel, too, local VW and Seat dealers, Champion Motors, are working on Seat's image. They have separated the Seat and VW interests within the company. The two marques now have different showrooms, managements, advertising companies and spokespeople.

To make a pitch to "the young and restless" the Seat sales planners have imported the "hot rod" Seat Ibiza GTI 2.0-liter - a spin-off of the kit-car that won the world rally championship. If nothing else, the Ibiza GTI comes in stunning colors. The model I tested was a light lime green; it looked like a giant popsicle and attracted admiring glances at every traffic light.

This snubby three-door exudes power. It's not pretty or attractive, but it is beautiful in the way that a muscular, powerful athlete can be beautiful. It is rounded off at the sides by gleaming classic-car style fenders, at the rear by a large

spoiler and in the front by two impressive-looking fog lamps. The dashboard fittings are reminiscent of the Volkswagen Polo, but this influence is overshadowed by the sporting touches - notably the black-on-white speedometer, rev. counter, temperature and gasoline gauges. There are also two smaller black-on-white gauges below the air-conditioner. They're great for show, but they are positioned in a way that the driver must stop the car to read them.

The Ibiza GTI is only available in one trim rating. There are power windows, electrically controlled rear mirrors, an adjustable steering wheel, a leather-embossed shift stick and a sun roof. The seats are comfortable and supportive, but seating space is limited.

There is also a dearth of storage space and the trunk is designed for those who travel light, which is reasonable since this is, after all, an automobile for young people - without panaches or baggage. If, however, the youngsters happen to have long legs, they'll just have to bend them a little.

The gear shift, like that on the VW Polo GTI, is operated by cables, and also requires a bit of work. One needs to have a strong hand, yet you must be gentle at the same time.

The four-cylinder engine, also from Volkswagen, is a ripper. The initials GTI generally refer to a hot car with a souped-up engine and sporting characteristics, but in recent years the initials have become over-used and many so-called GTIs or GTIs are disappointingly normal cars with a

fancy sticker. The Ibiza 2.0-liter, however, lives up to its name. Its initial acceleration capabilities are astounding. It can zip from 0-100 km/h in about eight seconds.

For those who like to drive in the fast lane and who can master the art of moving the cable gears, this car is a dream. The just-right suspension adds to the pleasure. The road-holding is enhanced by the wide, 16-inch tires and active safety is further boosted by accurate steering and spot-on disc brakes at the front and rear.

Passive safety features include two front airbags. The average fuel consumption is a reasonable 11.9 km/l.

One of the most pleasant surprises is the price. At NIS 95,250, the Ibiza GTI has no competition in its class. There is no shortage of hot coupes in Israel, but the Peugeot GTI 106, the Citroen Saxo VTS, the Renault Meganie Coupe, the Opel Astra Coupe, the Opel Tigra, the Alpha TI 45 and the Honda Civic VTI are all more expensive. To be fair, the others - with the exception of Peugeot and Citroen - are all larger, but comfort is not usually a factor for the "hot-car" set.

SEAT IBIZA 16V GTI  
ENGINE: 1,984cc  
HORSEPOWER: 150 at 6,000  
TORQUE: 18 at 4,600 r.p.m.  
GEARS: manual  
ACCELERATION: from 0-100 km/h. in 8.3 secs.  
MAXIMUM SPEED: 216 km/h.  
GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: 11.7 km/l.  
PRICE: NIS 95,250

## Caddies for the Continent

Americans have always held the upmarket European automobiles in esteem. To own a Mercedes, BMW or a Jaguar - not to mention a Rolls Royce, Porsche or a Ferrari - is status in the US. Europeans, on the other hand, have not always shown the same respect for the top US-made luxury automobiles, which are regarded as boat-like gas guzzlers.

Ford, at least, owns Jaguar and Aston Martin. General Motors

however, has no truck likeness to sell to Europeans - the company's most elite car on the continent has always been the Opel Omega. But the times they are a changing. GM last week chose the prestigious Frankfurt Motor Show to unveil the new Cadillac Seville. It is the first time GM has launched a Cadillac at a venue outside of the US. The new Seville has been specifically designed as a "world car." To make it more palatable to the

taste of Europeans (and Japanese), its "land-yacht" look is gone and it's smaller and rounder than its predecessor. In Europe it will compete against the Jaguar CXJ8, the Mercedes E and S classes, and in Japan against the Toyota Lexus. If all goes well, Cadillacs will become a common sight on European roads and smaller, less expensive Cadillacs will be designed to compete with the BMW 3-series and the Audi A6.

## Sotheby's to sell Nussbaums

AT THE AUCTIONS



Fossil skull of a near-complete Tyrannosaurus rex to be sold by Sotheby's New York Oct. 3.

Two remarkable oils by Felix Nussbaum (1904-44), the brilliant young German-Jewish painter murdered at Auschwitz, are being offered at Sotheby's Tel Aviv sale on October 27. One is of a wharf scene made at Ostende in 1936. Painted on panel, this low-palette oil with figures standing next to a ship is of striking composition and rather typical of the gloomy genre painting of the period. Most of the ship is hidden below eye level, but its smoky raked funnel dominates the work and is echoed by a stark foremost (\$70,000-\$100,000). The second Nussbaum oil is a charming rural landscape painted at San Remo in 1934 (\$20,000-\$30,000).

Another notable work on offer is a very early Rembrandt Ruben (1693-1974) oil from 1924 of an Arab village and mosque, somewhat reminiscent of Sidna Ali near Herzliya (\$64,000-\$60,000). Utamaro's

(\$100,000-\$150,000). More about this sale in a coming column.

DANIELLA LUXEMBOURG, a founding co-director of Sotheby's Tel Aviv and more recently deputy chair of Sotheby's Switzerland, is leaving Sotheby's to set up a joint venture with Simon de Pury, who has resigned as chairman of Sotheby's Europe. According to de Pury, a select group of collectors have asked the pair to create an art fund to buy and sell works as a private company. Both are expert at drumming up sales and will doubtless tread on Sotheby's toes. Nevertheless, Diana D. Brooks, president and CEO of Sotheby's Holdings, has gallantly wished them well. De Pury is being replaced as chairman of Sotheby's Europe by Henry Wyndham.

topless Awabi fisher-girls have a top estimate of over \$280,000. This sale also features 22 erotic prints by these and other artists. Prices of good Japanese ukiyo-e prints continue to spiral upward.

THE FOSSIL skeleton of the

biggest and best Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered will be auctioned by Sotheby's New York October 3. The dinosaur is 90 percent complete and her 36 surviving teeth still bear marks of wear. The skull is 1.5 meters long. "Sus" is expected to bring over \$1 million.

### THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

7.10 Women for Women, the interorganizational forum that promotes the election of more women as heads and members of municipal councils, will meet at WIZO House, 1 Mapu Street, Jerusalem, at 12 noon.

10.10 A record number of Israelis is expected to participate in the week-long Anuga Food Fair, the world's largest event of its kind, to be held in Cologne. More than 800 Israelis, most of them buyers, have already registered for the fair, which will be attended by close to 190,000 importers and distributors from 152 countries. In addition to tried and true favorites, some 56,000 new food products will be unveiled at the fair. The large Israeli contingent is attributed to the mushrooming of shopping malls around the country, featuring a host of food outlets.

14.10 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of Magav Technology has been called at the company offices, 3 Kitznits-n Street, Ashdod, to approve the capital investment of approximately NIS 9.5 million in Ganei Or Holdings and Investments, a private company owned and controlled by Avi Turjeman and Ze'ev Recanat.

15.10 An Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Fallov has been called at the company offices on Kibbutz Ramat Yonatan to decide on the acquisition of the assets of its wholly owned subsidiary Paltram, and to vote on changing the company's name to Paltram Fallov Ltd.

22.10 The Rehabilitation Care and Equipment Fair for Disabled People will be held at the Dörseldorf Messe. The four-day fair attracts members of the medical community as well as distributors of medical and rehabilitation equipment.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli stocks and their performance.

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Lists continuously traded shares.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Lists small capitalization issues.

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Continuation of the Mishtanim list.

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Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Continuation of the Mishtanim list.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: AMEX, LAST, CHANGE. Lists Israeli shares on the AMEX.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: NASDAQ, LAST, CHANGE. Lists Israeli shares on the NASDAQ.

NYSE

Table with columns: NYSE, LAST, CHANGE. Lists Israeli shares on the NYSE.

LONDON

Table with columns: LONDON, LAST, CHANGE. Lists Israeli shares on the London exchange.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: NEW YORK, LAST, CHANGE. Lists international shares.

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Continuation of the Mishtanim list.

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Continuation of the Mishtanim list.

Table with columns: TASE ISSUES, LAST, CHANGE. Continuation of the Mishtanim list.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Tase indices (Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv Tel Aviv), and various stock prices.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Foreign exchange rates (USD, GBP, JPY, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, New York Market Indexes (DJ Industrial, S&P 500, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Other Market Indexes (FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Dollar Cross Rates (USD/GBP, USD/JPY, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, US Commodities (Corn, Wheat, Soybean, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Currencies (GBP, JPY, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, London Commodity Futures (Oil, Gold, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Spot Market Metals (Silver, Gold, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, New York Metal Futures (Aluminum, Steel, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, London Metal Fixes (Copper, Lead, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Paris Market (CAC 40, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Frankfurt Market (DAX, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Foreign Financial Data (Telecom, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Data Communications (FAX, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group (Stock, etc.).

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, Tel Aviv Shares Data (Pacific, etc.).

TASE jumps as peace process gets lift

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks jumped a day after the bourse was shut by a strike, as investors looked toward a possible renewal of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The Maof Index of 25 stocks added 2.79 percent to 300.29. The Mishkanim Index jumped 2.60% to 292.44. The Tel Aviv Composite Trading Index of 30 stocks rose 2.62% to 101.5.

Leading the market higher were Israel's two biggest banks based on assets, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi, up 2.5% to 8.05 shekels and 2.75 percent to 5.67 shekels respectively.

"People were waiting for something good to happen politically; sentiment had been so bad," said Daniella Finn, head of research at Ilanot Baucha. "There it came, and there went the market, to the sky."

Also boosting optimism: estimates that "the money supply will drop" and that the rise in the consumer price index for September will come in around 0.5%, "which is not much," said Asher Sela, trader at Etgar Ltd.

Bank Leumi was the most-active issue, trading 13.4 million shekels of shares. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, 180.5 million shekels of shares traded. Gaining shares outpaced losers by almost

Europe

Europe UK stocks were mixed, snapping Friday's rally as expectation waned the UK government will set a date to join European economic and monetary union after its planned January 1999 start.

"It's a question of when, not if," said Philip Lisherwood, a UK equity strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in London. "We are slightly skeptical that they will announce a date. They are more likely to announce that they aren't going to be in the first wave."

The FT-SE 100 Index fell 6 points, or 0.11%, to 5220.3. Falling supermarket shares offset gains by oil companies and utilities. The index matched Friday's record 5244.3 before paring gains. The FT-SE index jumped as much

STOCKS

Maof 300.29 ▲ 2.79%
Dow Jones 7991 ▲ 0.87%
FTSE 5220.3 ▼ 0.11%
Nikkei 17987 ▼ 0.04%

as 178.8 points, or 2.5% to 5,444.3 Friday, closing 161.8 points higher at 5326.3. That was after the Financial Times said the UK may join the single currency sooner than expected.

Friday's gain shattered the record 5195 reached August 13, and set a 42nd all-time high of the year. Countries joining the single currency will adopt a shared official interest rate. The UK base lending rate is now 7% compared with Germany's 6% benchmark. The UK rates will not be lowered, it intends to adopt the euro.

Asia

Asia Japanese stocks fell for a third day amid concerns the Bank of Japan's "tankan" quarterly survey

Wall Street

Stocks rose yesterday, lifting smaller company measures back to record levels in quiet trading before today's Federal Reserve meeting on inflation and interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 69.25 points to 7,991.43, down slightly from a 73-point gain that put it within 5 points of the 8,000 mark. The barometer of 30 blue-chip companies started the day with a 28-point deficit before quickly turning higher.

Broader stock indicators also shrugged off some early weakness to post some sizable gains. Smaller-company shares ended a three-session pause in their record-setting march.

There was little reaction to a morning report showing that consumer spending rose a modest 0.3 percent in August — down from a 1.7 percent gain in July — despite a healthy 0.3-point gain in personal income.

The report, which was the last piece of major economic data before Fed officials gather today for one of their periodic strategy meetings.

Few analysts expect a change in monetary policy by the central bank, which has raised its rate only once since March. (Bloomberg)

Dollar steady vs. mark before German repo tender

The dollar was little changed against the mark as investors await the Bundesbank's decision at today's repo tender.

Expectations grew that the Bundesbank could raise its key repurchase rate for the first time in five years as a pick up in the German economy is fueling inflation.

The dollar swung heavily yesterday after dropping on comments by an unnamed US Treasury official saying the US currency will fall below 1.70 by year-end, and that German interest rates will rise.

"The dollar is fluctuating in a range and will trade out of what happens in the U.S. this week unless the Bundesbank surprises us," said David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gundy.

"The comments this morning were interesting and were absorbed by the market."

The dollar was last at 1.7590 marks, little changed from 1.7513 late Friday. It slipped a bit to 1.7513 marks. The German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper cited a high-ranking colleague of US Treasury secretary Robert Rubin as saying the US Federal Reserve, which meets to discuss monetary policy today, won't see any reason to raise US rates.

This differs from the Bundesbank who needs to keep prices in check, which will boost the mark by increasing the return on mark-denominated deposit.

The same unnamed official said the dollar will trade at around 1.65 to 1.70 marks through the rest of the year. Looking ahead,

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.5070 ▲ 0.09%
Basket 3.776 ▲ 0.01%
Mark 1.9915 ▼ 0.4%
Sterling 5.6708 ▲ 0.69%

The National Association of Purchasing Management's monthly index, slated for release tomorrow, probably will show manufacturing expanded at a slower pace in September than in August. Friday's jobs also

to show the US economy added 326,000 jobs in August. Still, while investors see the Bundesbank raising its key repurchase rate in the coming months, they said it was unlikely they do so today.

"There might be a bit of a slippage, but the dollar remains well bid," said Philip Tyson, an international economist at HSBC Markets.

"Any slippage will be short-lived," as he doesn't expect the Bundesbank to put up rates "just yet." A weak dollar would help US exporters by making their goods cheaper in Europe. Talk of higher German rates was heightened after import price inflation surged to 0.9% in August from July and to 5.4% from a year ago, which reversed sentiment that inflation was cooling off after a

series of foreign consumer prices released last week.

The mark touched a near three-month low of 1.7480 marks Friday. The dollar is in a downward trend as positive elements that boosted it so far are moving into reverse now, said Tony Norfield, a treasury economist at ABN Amro House Govett. "I wouldn't pay a great deal of attention to officials' comments, but this time, they coincide with the economic cycle."

Norfield forecasts the dollar will trade at 1.70 marks at the end of the fourth quarter. The Bundesbank has left its repurchase rate unchanged at an historic low of 5% for over a year and the Federal Reserve last raised its Fed funds target rate to 5.25 in March. (Bloomberg)

Nickel rises to seven-week high

as traders sold contracts in a bet warmer weather would curb last week's demand for heating fuels, brokers said. Gasoline prices rose last week too, boosted Friday when Citgo Corp.'s Lake Charles, Louisiana plant unexpectedly closed its gasoline making unit, raising concerns of product shortage.

US heating oil gains last week — prices rose 8.4 percent — could be at an end because the colder weather that prompted buying last week is at an end, weather forecasters said.

COMMODITIES

Gold \$329.55 ▲ 2.8%
Crude Oil \$19.57 ▲ 0.01%
CRB 242.68 ▼ 0.04%

Nickel, the world's second-largest nickel producer, could close a smelter. The company said it has no immediate plans to shut the plant. Demand for stainless steel, the dominant end-use of nickel, has declined in recent months because of a lull in manufacturing in the Northern Hemisphere summer and perceptions the market was over-supplied. Now, demand is expected to improve, offsetting concerns there may be too much stainless steel around.

The three-month nickel forward contract on the London Metal Exchange rose \$150 to \$6,980 a metric ton.

Copper rose as rising machine orders in Germany offset a 21-day increase in London Metal Exchange stockpiles. New machinery orders to German factories rose 11% in August from a year ago, Germany's VDMA machinery industry trade association said yesterday.

The increase, which is a sign that demand for copper pipes and wire is robust in Europe, comes at a time when analysts say consumption is stumping in Asia

and new output from refineries and smelters is boosting stockpiles. Three-month copper rose \$5 a ton to \$105 a metric ton on the LME.

White sugar futures rose amid concern that drought associated with the El Niño weather pattern will damage next year's crops from Thailand and Indonesia. Sugar output from Thailand, the world's third-largest producer, is expected to fall to 4.9 million tons in 1997-98, from 6.1 million tons the previous year, as a result of drought brought on by the El Niño weather pattern, said sugar trader C. Czarnikow Ltd. White sugar to December delivery rose \$1.60 to \$305.40 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. (Bloomberg)

Precious metals

Platinum prices rose and palladium prices fell. Russia, the world's largest producer of palladium and the second-largest producer of platinum behind South Africa, is expected to supply far less of the metal than it has done in recent years. Spot platinum traded \$3.30 higher at \$432 an ounce. Spot palladium fell \$1.25 to \$192 an ounce.

Gold prices were little changed. Gold for immediate delivery recently traded 75 cents higher at \$327.50 an ounce.

Others

Nickel rose to a seven-week high amid expectations for improved stainless steel demand and an report that RAO Norilsk

Energy

Crude oil prices in London fell

US bonds fall before economic reports

US bonds fell before today's Federal Reserve policy meeting and reports this week on consumer confidence, manufacturing and jobs that may show the economy remains robust.

The Commerce Department said yesterday that personal income and spending rose in August, which may set the stage for more growth.

"Unless we get more spectacular inflation news, there is more downside risk in the market," said Mike Mullane, who helps manage about \$700 million in bonds for Boston Partners Asset Management. "Everyone is too complacent."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 1/4, or \$2.50 per \$1,000 bond, to 99 27/32, pushing its yield up 2 basis points, to 6.38 percent. The two-year note yield was steady at 5.78%. Faster economic growth is typically associated with inflation, which erodes the value of bonds' fixed payments.

"People are nervous" about holding long-term bonds, which would be hurt the most if signs of strong growth spark a sell-off, said Garb Nisbet, who manages \$750 million of bonds at Crabbe Husco Group in Portland, Oregon.

The difference in yield between 30-year bonds and two-year notes widened 2 basis points to 61 basis points yesterday.

The Fed is not expected to raise interest rates today, since inflation so far remains subdued. In the first eight months of the year prices rose at a 1.6% annual rate.

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 6.38 ▲ 0.2

The momentum shifted back to a global deflationary environment," said Nisbet, who has been betting for several months that yields will keep declining. He predicts the benchmark 30 year bond yield will fall to around 6% in coming weeks.

Fed policy-makers last raised the target for overnight bank loan

rates in March, by a quarter point to 5.5%. They left rates unchanged at meetings in May, July and August.

"We won't see the Fed move until we start to see data showing a rise in inflation," said Kevin Logan, senior market economist at Dresdner Securities Inc.

US bonds rallied and yields dropped about 30 basis points since September 1, as reports showed late inflation.

"There's a camp building that says we are in the process of slowing down a bit, and that's the question we're trying to get answered," said Bill Kirby, co-head of government bond trading at Prudential Securities Inc.

Still, some investors remained concerned that yields could climb as the strengthening economy

pushed prices and labor costs higher — reviving the threat of quickening inflation.

"I'm still skeptical of this new paradigm," said Boston Partner's Mulvaney. "I don't think that the business cycle is dead just yet."

Mullane said he's considering selling some Treasury securities to lock in recent gains and purchasing more long-term securities. The added income that mortgage pay over government bonds would help to protect his portfolio if interest rates begin to rise.

The Commerce Department said personal incomes rose 0.6% in August after increasing a revised 0.3% during July. Spending, meanwhile, rose 0.3% in August after climbing a revised 1.0% in July, the largest increase since January. (Bloomberg)

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.9.97), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (29.9.97), CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, Rep., Buy, Sell, Rates.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Clal Pharm, 22 Kanfani... DUTY HOSPITALS: Jerusalem: Elkor Holim (internal, obstetrics, ENT)... POLICE: 100, FIRE: 102, FIRST AID: 101, Magen David Adom: 101

WHERE TO GO

Wizz hotlines for battered women: 02-6514111, 03-546-1133... Hadasah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support services: 02-624-7676.









**GRAPEVINE**

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

# Remembering an era

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The gathering at the Tower of David Museum looked more like a convention of veteran journalists than a group of visitors to a photo exhibit. They were there for the opening of an exhibit of the first color photographs of Jerusalem, taken 50 years ago by journalist-photographer Martha Levin. For former colleagues from *The Jerusalem Post* and *Time* magazine as well as Americans and Brits who were part of the Jerusalem scene in the 1940s, the occasion was also a reunion. Among those at the opening were Richard Osterman, Yuval Elitzur, Diana Lerner, David Gross, Larry Frisch, Alex Berlyne, Zipporah Porath, Sas Jacoby and David Rubinger, for whom the nascent years of the state were not just history but steeped in personal memories.

While commending Levin's contribution to the fourth estate's coverage of Israel, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, still riding high on the Jerusalem 3000 festivities, observed that nonetheless the period was only 50 years out of 3000.



Olmert puts statehood in perspective. (Brian Hendler)

LAST week it wasn't a hundred percent certain that the Netanyahu would be celebrating Rosh Hashana in the Prime Minister's official residence. But they made it just in time.

AFTER traveling a long road with the movers and shakers of Israel, first as spokesman for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, then as a journalist, and for the past 17 years as director of the Israeli office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Harry Wall has returned to the US with his family. Wall, who had access to power brokers and opinion-makers on all sides of the political fence and met most of the high-ranking Americans who came to Israel, has joined the New York-based international strategic consulting organization, Strategy XXI Group Ltd. Many of the thousands of friends he made in Israel are sure to bump into him sooner or later in one of the coffee shops on Madison Avenue. The personable Wall just loves chewing the fat over a cup of java.

SILVER-haired Helen Septimus, who was honored as Woman of the Year at the AMIT Women's annual scholarship dinner at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, is proof that juggling a career and volunteerism is no recent phenomenon. A history teacher at Union City High School in New Jersey for a number of years and later the executive manager of a prestigious New York law firm, Septimus, who came on aliyah in 1981, established many AMIT chapters in the US and served on the National Executive Boards of AMIT in America and Israel.

AMIT Women, and its forerunner American Mizrahi Women, is very much a family affair for Septimus. Her mother, the late Ida Freiman, was actively involved in AMW and her sisters Marcie Neugeboren, Celia Epstein and Esther Zuckerbrot, and sisters-in-law Frances Freiman and Sylvia Freiman, are all active in AMIT. Each has served as president of her respective chapter. When Septimus went to the beau-



Harry's gone A-Wall (Richard Howitz)

LONG before the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, actor George Clooney was vigorously pursuing his own anti-paparazzi campaign. Now photographers are retreating. Clooney has suddenly become the invisible man. Wherever he goes, including premieres of his own movies, the paparazzi point their cameras in the air instead of focusing on the star. Apparently, they can all get along fine without Clooney. The question is whether Clooney can get along without them.



Moshe Katsav and his very own Miss Universe, Ofra Haza.

ty parlor on the day of the dinner, she ran into 20 other women attending the function who were all having their hair styled in the same place. "I wish they'd honor you every day," said the hair dresser. "This is the most business I've had all week."

AN example of the younger generation of career women who manage to combine their professions with community concerns and their roles of wife and mother is epidemiologist Robin Kahn, chairperson of AMIT's Israel executive. On the day of the Amit scholarship dinner, Kahn, a mother of four and a doctoral degree student, returned from a tour of Poland and the Czech Republic where she had accompanied her daughter's class. Undeterred by lack of sleep, Kahn prepared a comprehensive report on AMIT's activities and the successes of its many educational programs. AMIT is particularly concerned that youngsters from economically deprived families not be denied educational opportunities.

FULL accreditation at last. Years of political crises in Yugoslavia precluded the appointment of a Yugoslavian ambassador to Israel. Although he performed all the duties of an ambassador, chargé d'affaires Mirko Stefanovic did not have the title that went with the job - at least not until this month, when he was notified of his elevation in rank. Although Stefanovic and his attractive wife, Liljana, didn't make a big fuss about the appointment, the word got out and they received many congratulatory messages from fellow envoys.

EVERYONE emerged a winner when the Zvyotel hotel chain officially adopted the Hand-in-Hand



The good ole days, Tel Aviv, before Clooney spurned photographers. (Gideon Markowicz)

Association at a reception at the Blue-Weiss Spa, Netanya. Hand-in-Hand provides warm homes for economically and emotionally deprived children. Mark Zibi, one of the owners of the chain, presented Hand-in-Hand chairperson Shelli Hoshen with a check for NIS 50,000. Ofra Haza, who as a rule does not perform for audiences standing in hotel lobbies, made an exception because of the affection she feels for Hand-in-Hand. Haza, pianist Rafi Kadishson and Spanish guitar virtuoso Baldi Olier and his son Barak all performed gratis and received tumultuous applause. Notwithstanding her celebrity status, Haza stood with the rest of the audience, next to her husband Doron Ashkenazy during the speeches. Obviously very much in love, the newly-wed Ashkenazys held hands until Haza had to go on stage, as he looked on adoringly. Referring to the possibility that the next Miss Universe contest will be held in Israel, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said, "When I look at Ofra Haza, I know we already have Miss Universe."

LONG before the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, actor George Clooney was vigorously pursuing his own anti-paparazzi campaign. Now photographers are retreating. Clooney has suddenly become the invisible man. Wherever he goes, including premieres of his own movies, the paparazzi point their cameras in the air instead of focusing on the star. Apparently, they can all get along fine without Clooney. The question is whether Clooney can get along without them.



Flax (left) and Rosenfeld: from white-collar crime to Caribbean Chicken. (AP)

# A pizza the pie

By RACHEL BECK

Larry Flax and Rick Rosenfeld didn't want to open just another pizza shop. When these two defense attorneys exchanged their legal pads for pizza cutters in 1985, their goal was to put a new spin on traditional pizza and then serve it in a quick but pleasant dining environment.

Two years later, their California Pizza Kitchen chain is now in 80 US cities, and plans are in place for international expansion and new, smaller fast-service outlets.

"We set out to reinvent pizza. Now upscale pizza is our brand," said Flax, whose personal favorites include the B.L.T. pizza and the Caribbean Chicken pizza. "There aren't too many other places that offer premium fast-food like we do," he said.

Flax and Rosenfeld met in the 1960s while working as federal prosecutors in Los Angeles. In 1973, they formed a private practice, dealing mostly with white-collar criminal cases.

While the two worked as lawyers, their passion was for the kitchen. After a case took them to San Francisco for four months, they decided they wanted out of law and were ready to test the restaurant business.

"We always wanted to do it, but then a big retainer would come along and we would delay the dream," Rosenfeld said while munching on a salad and focaccia bread at their newest restaurant in

Paramus, New Jersey. "Once we did open, we realized this let us be creative," he said. "It wasn't the judge and jury controlling our destiny, but the people who came to our restaurant to eat."

Their first restaurant opened in Beverly Hills, where they're still headquartered. Following the path of famed California chefs Alice Waters and Wolfgang Puck, they too offered "designer pizzas" topped with everything from goat cheese to rabbit sausage.

But diners didn't jump at their menu. Instead, they yearned for pizzas that meshed the traditional variety with new flavors and foods, like the now famed Original BBQ Chicken pizza, a combination of barbecued chicken, sliced red onion, cilantro and smoked Gouda cheese.

The menu was soon changed and to this day, it tries to include new, popular foods in the pizzas, pastas, and salads. Thai chicken in a spicy peanut-ginger sauce and portobello mushrooms are now found in a number of dishes.

"We want people to crave our food," Flax said. "We want people to read the menu and almost taste what they are ordering. Then they'll be wowed by what they are eating."

CPK's success came fast, a lucky thing for Flax and Rosenfeld, who had no back-up plan if their restaurant failed. CPK caters mostly to upscale diners who want a quick meal but dislike traditional fast food. Sites soon opened around southern California and then in cities like

Honolulu, Chicago and Atlanta. By the early 1990s, CPK operated some 25 restaurants.

But the biggest growth spurt for CPK came after PepsiCo Inc. bought a controlling stake in 1992, reportedly for between \$60 million (NIS 210 million) and \$70 million (NIS 245 m.). Flax and Rosenfeld continued to manage the chain, opening nearly 50 CPK restaurants in the past four years.

With Pepsi's financial backing, CPK became the 13th largest upscale casual dining chain in the US, with sales of \$175 million (NIS 612 m.) last year, a 4 percent gain from 1995.

In July, Pepsi sold its CPK share to an investment firm for a reported \$100 million (NIS 350 m.). The move came as part of Pepsi's decision earlier in the year to move out of the casual-dining business.

"With help from Pepsi, the penetration of our brand was significant," Flax said.

"Now we are thinking of taking the company public, which will help us achieve our dream of making CPK a global brand," added Rosenfeld, finishing his partner and best friend's sentence as they ate.

In addition, growth opportunities are seen abroad. Plans are already set for three restaurants to open in Asia in the next few years. "McDonald's" became the world's largest chain because people liked its consistency," Flax said. "Most of our loyal customers feel the same way about us. We want to bring that to people worldwide." (AP)

# Confessions of a Tupperware virgin

We all sat around in a circle seated on comfortable furniture in a friend's Ra'anana home. "Have any of you done this before?" a South African woman named Lesley asked us. Two of us bashfully admitted that they had. The rest of us shook our heads.

It was our first time. "So you're virgins," said Lesley, adding in a reassuring voice. "Don't worry, I'll explain it all to you from the beginning."

She explained, we listened carefully and by the end, felt as if we had been initiated. That is why today I can proudly announce that I know all there is to know about Tupperware. I have attended my first Tupperware party.

I must admit, receiving the invitation threw me for a loop. You see, since moving from grimy, noisy Tel Aviv to the suburban town that calls itself "The Pearl of the Sharon," I have been in the throes of reverse culture shock. When I first moved to Israel, I wouldn't have been caught dead in a place like Ra'anana; "If I'd wanted to live in New Jersey, I

## Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

How could I not enjoy it? After all, at 8 p.m., just when the baby was getting cranky and needing to be put to bed, I had a legitimate excuse to get out of the house, leave the laundry in charge, flee the bills and the unpaid piles of work dragged home from the office, and other nagging loose ends. I could forget about work pressures, child-care concerns, and the state of the peace process. I could concentrate on deciding whether what I really needed was an aqua-blue four-liter bowl with a built-in colander, designed so that when I store my salad, the excess liquid drips down, and my tomatoes stay crunchy; or a big oval plastic container with a pop-up spout to keep my comfakes in so they don't get stale. None of the women who attended was an empty-headed ditz; all were intelligent, most everyone worked, except for the one Harvard grad who was studying for her MBA. One woman, a high-powered marketing executive, seemed to be

**'The sales pitch at the parties promotes the hope that Tupperware will be the key to bringing your life under control.'**

would have stayed in the United States," were my actual words five years ago.

I wanted to be more Israeli than the Israelis; and Tel Aviv was what I considered living. It was a wonderful, fun, lively city, but it was also grimy, noisy, and dog-eat-dog. I had to adapt myself to the rough and cynical ways of Israeli culture, learn Hebrew rapidly, quickly develop street smarts, and adapt to the fact that I was not in Kansas anymore.

Now, having finally migrated north in search of more living space, a backyard, and a good school system, I'm slowly getting used to the fact that in Ra'anana, immigrants from English-speaking countries are not some weird exotic micro-minority, but an impressive percentage of the citizenry, and a significant force in the local culture.

But Tupperware parties? That seemed to be going a bit far, and the concept reawakened my unflattering suburban stereotypes. I didn't even know such things still existed in America, let alone in Israel. I mean, weren't they for bored housewives who had nothing more interesting to contemplate than what they would store their leftovers in? Women who, after a day of burping babies, wanted nothing more than to "burp" Tupperware? (To you Tupperware virgins, when you want to hermetically seal your foods in their trademark plastic containers, you have to "burp" out the last bit of air.) Didn't this kind of thing disappear in the 1950s?

Well, it didn't. And in the end, I went, I bought, and I even had a good time.

something of a Tupperware party addict. She wouldn't disclose the number of parties she had attended, but every time a product was described she'd exclaim, "Oh, I have that!"

Our saleswoman, Lesley, also seems to have gotten a little carried away with Tupperware. And why not? It seems that much of the compensation for being a Tupperware "pusher" comes in the form of free products. Lesley says that her bathroom is full of Tupperware; containers which seal away her cotton balls and makeup and feminine hygiene products, as if—heaven forbid—letting sanitary pads sit in the box might cause them to get stale.

Now that I'm no longer a Tupperware virgin, I think I understand the appeal of the products to the frazzled '90s superwoman. First, the parties give you an excuse to get out of the house and socialize during the work week. But there's a deeper level.

The sales pitch at the parties promotes the hope that Tupperware will be the key to bringing your life under control. After all, in the idealized Tupperware world, you can cook once a month, freeze everything in a rainbow of plastic coolers, and you're home free - no more cooking for weeks. And if you own the right containers - presto! The rest of the clutter in your house will disappear like magic.

You don't have to be a '50s housewife to be turned on by that idea. So if you ask me what I've learned in my first month in a new hometown, it's this: Life can be simple and perfect - if you only have enough bowls that burp.

# No vaccine against rejection

**Dear Ruthie,**  
How can I get a man I'm interested in to ask me out? Please do not advise me to ask him out. I know it's the Nineties, but I just can't do it. I think the man in question doesn't know I'm interested in him, which is why I would be interested in me if he did know. This whole thing makes me feel like I'm back in high school. But the truth is, even in high school I wasn't very good at this game.

**Hinting Honey**  
Somewhere in the United States Dear Not-Even-Hinting Honey, Nineties or no Nineties, the fear of rejection is ageless. What you are describing is a reluctance to risk being turned down. In this respect, you are no different from a man in the same position. For all you know, the man you're after fears your rejection even more than you fear his. If so, he may be "putting out feelers" of which you are unaware, as a way of minimizing his own risk.

What you are seeking is a Nineties method of tossing your handkerchief "inadvertently" for this man to retrieve, and, in the process, make a little eye contact. Maybe even get a dinner invitation.

The "high-school method" is to have a mutual friend pass on the message that you are interested, and then wait to see whether there is mutual interest. A more adult method might be to invite this man along with other people to a dinner party, office gathering, or other form of group setting. But even then, you'll have to wait to see whether your bait has hooked your prey.

Ironically, as is true with so many other things in life, even success on this score provides no guaran-

tees of any kind. There's simply no vaccine against rejection.

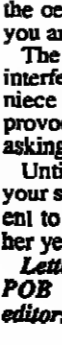
**Dear Ruthie,**  
My niece has moved to a flat near my home, which is quite a distance from her parents. She has fallen in love with a boy I am certain my sister and brother-in-law would strongly disagree with. I have had a few sleepless nights debating whether to sit my niece down for a "heart-to-heart" chat, or speak to her parents. Can you advise me?

**Anxious Auntie**  
Somewhere in Israel Dear Anxious Aunt,  
If your niece is old enough to live on her own, she is old enough to begin making her way in the world. This may mean making a lot of her own mistakes. Becoming a self-appointed guardian is likely to backfire. Any rift between your niece and her parents which occurs as a result of a "heart-to-heart" will disturb your sleep no less than it has been disturbed so far. Furthermore, while the boy in your niece's life might be replaced in the near future, any bad feelings on her part towards you are likely to stick around.

The only instance in which I would advise you to interfere is where there is a clear signal from your niece that she wants your help, say, parading provocatively with her boyfriend in front of you, or asking for your approval and/or advice.

Until that time, you might as well get some sleep. If your sister wants a private detestative or substitute parent to keep her daughter in line, she hasn't let go of her yet. So you really have nothing to worry about. **Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il**

## Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

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CONCERT ROUNDUP

Pros and concerts

The season's opening concert of the Israel Camerata, conducted by Avner Biran, featured an almost standard Classic-Romantic program, except for Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 9 for string orchestra. This work provided a welcome change. Not only did it deviate from the familiar, but its allegro movements' delicate light-wingedness and its adagio movement's somewhat baroque-sounding weightiness are far more mature than one would expect from a 14-year-old composer. Another welcome change was the

when in the right mood, can play very well. However, there was a downside. There were too many

Mahler's Third Symphony  
JSO  
International Convention Center  
September 25

kicks in the brass, far too many unclear entrances and notes, and the female choir was obviously not ready for the concert. But despite these elements, the overall performance was highly impressive. Shallon does not interpret Mahler, he plays it. Under his assured baton, the JSO gave a commendable, solid and inspired reading of the symphony. Most memorable were the fourth movement in which mezzo-soprano Susanna Povetsky caressed the audience with her warm vocal instrument, and the final movement which brought to a climactic end this powerful, dramatic presentation. It was a most impressive way to open the season, a performance the JSO should be proud of.

Michael Ajzenstadt

MOZART'S Great Mass was never completed by the composer. In fact, there are serious differences of opinion as to how much of it he originally wrote. While it is well known that the work lacks the final Agnus Dei, those who attended the ICO concert got a real surprise. When they applauded enthusiastically after the Benedictus, where this unfinished mass usually ends, conductor Salvador Mas-Condé continued. He presented the Agnus Dei, probably his own idea to put the missing text to the music Mozart used for the opening movements. This was a very satisfactory concert, albeit in certain details and not in its overall presentation.

The Mozart mass was well performed by the ICO, the visiting Prague Chamber Choir, and the four soloists. But I did not agree with the conductor's choice of tempo and stylistic approach. It was a grandiose, bombastic, overly classical leaning toward the romantic ren-

Mozart's C minor Mass and Mendelssohn's Second Piano Concerto  
Israel Chamber Orchestra  
Tel Aviv Museum, September 28

Works by Haydn, Mozart and Mendelssohn  
The Israel Camerata  
Jerusalem Theater, September 21

film that preceded the concert. Entitled *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China, 1979*, the short documentary highlighted the violin virtuoso's visit to post-Cultural Revolution China. Operating from the principle that "you don't use music to play the violin, you use the violin to play music," Stern lovingly showed young Chinese violin students how to open their hearts and minds to the "soul" of the pieces they were playing.

The film opened and closed with an intense, highly skilled young boy playing the cello - Jian Wang, who was the Camerata's guest soloist.

The wunderkind has obviously developed into an adult cellist to be reckoned with. Wang performed Haydn's Cello Concerto in D major with a delightfully light touch, producing a sonorous, singing tone, enjoyably faithful to the work's cheerful mood, while displaying formidable and effortless command of the work's demanding technique.

Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, after starting off with an annoyingly erratic tempo, settled down to a conventional rendition blissfully inattentive to details.

The tones in one of the adagio movement's most lovely themes could, like the children in the proverb, be seen (in the score) but not heard, swallowed wholesale as they were. Occasional lack of clarity in the final movement was typical of a mediocre rather than an outstanding performance.

Ury Eppstein

UNDER THE fiery baton of Yuval Zalkoik, this work was the highlight of the orchestra's opening concert. David D'Or, with his rich contralto, expressed all the minute nuances of this intense here-and-now yet universal opus: from horror and anguish to hope and prayer for tolerance and reconciliation.

"Children of God"  
By Joseph Bardanashvili  
Ra'anana Symphonette

Bardanashvili's passionate monologue, written in a clear late 20th-century idiom, sends chills down your spine. The rest of the evening was markedly less rewarding.

The orchestra sounded weak, as if long-gone composers were unable to inspire the musicians on the stage. In a monotonous, un-focused Schubert's Fifth Symphony, the first violins were especially awkward. Things did not improve after the intermission. The American pianist Andre Michel Schuik, playing Beethoven's Fifth Concerto ("Empireur"), kept all his emotions to himself, never allowing them to infuse his lackluster instrument.

Maxim Reider

IBA MUSIC director David Shallon loves Mahler. But his Mahler concerts have had their ups and downs. This time around, the concert was real "up," suggesting that the JSO,

DANCE REVIEW

Hard to forget 'How To Remember'

By DORA SOWDEN

Moshe Efraim brought his latest work, *How To Remember*, from a debut abroad to a debut at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv (September 27).

The dance, which deals with the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, left us thinking about Efraim's characteristic style and subjective approach. He employed all the idioms he has devised over the years and perhaps introduced a new attitude toward grief. The unmistakable rhetoric of his dance language, the minimal stage effects, and the maximal energy of his company, Kol'Dmamma, spoke volumes.

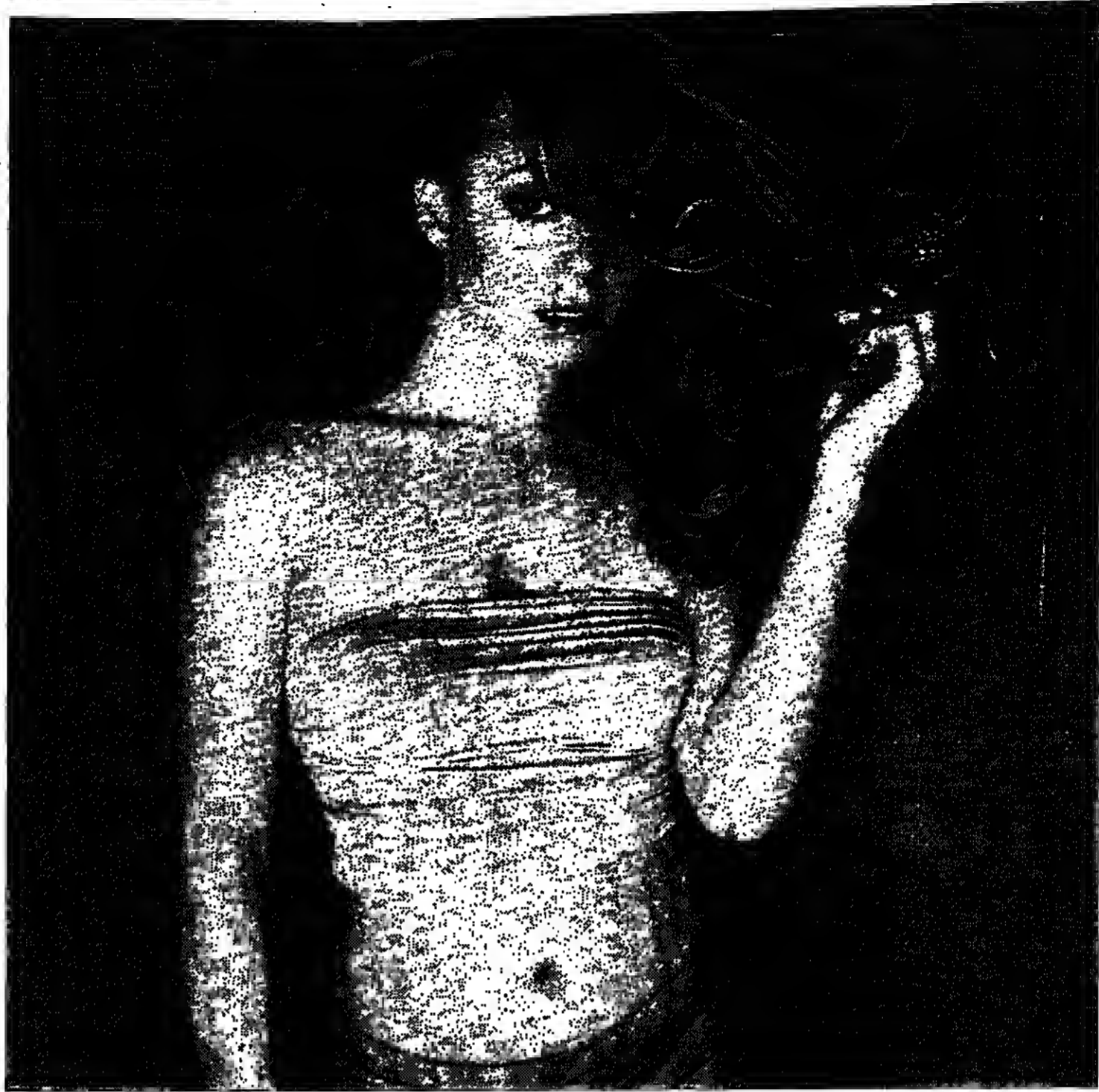
This work has an elegiac theme but is action-packed and on-narrative, except for some snatches of speech. It is a 90-minute thorough in the language of dance, with the Efraim affluents. There are the movements of arms, even fingers, that go with deaf yet distinct perception, the march-like stepping out by individuals and groups that has defined so much of Efraim's creative drive. There is also a

video screening of the stricken prime minister and his devoted wife. Although this is a lament, it does not end in defeat. The 15 dancers articulate their acrobatics in a vigorous determination to go forward in the Efraim dance syndrome.

This form of choreography has usually been more explicit than it is here but it is still effective, with the intellectual elements of Efraim's kinetic vocabulary. He may have allowed himself too much indulgence in sentiment, especially in the video segment. There is, however, too much economy in the use of music (which was often a mere whisper of sound), except for some light lyrical rhythms to indicate that life must go on.

Perhaps cutting out a few of the repeated actions might make the length of the show more comfortable. On the other hand, there could have been more emphasis on the significance of the stretch of white cloth, the donning of red cloaks over bikini briefs. But it would be difficult to determine what to leave out and still leave the impact intact.

IN TUNE



Mariah Carey wastes her powerful voice on mediocre songs and elevator-music arrangements.

Sugar-coated Mariah

By DAVID BRINN

TOP 40 radio - or "contemporary hit radio," as it's referred to today - hasn't changed much over the years. The goal is to grab the listener with easily hummable melodies and unforgettable hooks. Probably the only major difference between the hits of the 1960s through 1970s - dominated by the likes of Three Dog Night and the Carpenters who produced solid light AM fare - and today's hitmakers is the 1990s influence of hip-hop and rap which emphasizes groove and dance.

Thank the mid-1970s disco explosion for that, as that much-derided dance-based movement has proven to be much more influential than the flash-in-the-pan label it received from many rock pundits.

A look at top-40 artists today reveals as varied a palette as those mining the field decades earlier.

Working the same pop-dance-ballad territory as Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey has always been far more impressive than her material.

Possessing a dazzling range, Carey was criticized early in her career for using her voice just to show off.

Later releases saw her toning down the overkill and favoring subtlety. No matter what she's done, she's sold millions with each release.

On her seventh album, *Butterfly*, she switches with ease between the groove-oriented dance beats of "Honey" and "The Roof" and the lush balladry of the title song and "My All."

Carey seems to aspire to the middle of the road, with even the hip-hop edges appearing

- BUTTERFLY  
Mariah Carey (NMC)
- TIME FOR A CHANGE  
Soul II Soul (Helicon)
- THE COLLECTION 3  
Various Artists (NMC)
- THE DANCE  
Fleetwood Mac (Red Artz)

muted and restrained. Carey's voice is still powerful, but she wastes it on mediocre songs and elevator-music arrangements. Most of it, however, fits the sugar-coated Top-40 format just fine. Expect it to sell a ton.

A LOOSELY knit conglomerate led by songwriter and vocalist Jazze B., Soul II Soul has been one of the more popular latter-day soul units capable of fusing 1970s Philly soul, disco, reggae and hip-hop.

On *Time for a Change*, they mix the groove, the message and the soul to create a sound that sounds nothing but current.

A few pointless rhythm tracks aside, the album shifts from smoky R&B balladry to smoldering dance riffs. Not strong on melody, the group makes up for it with feeling and a sense of social activism. Witness the title track and "Dare to Differ," which conjures up images of late 1960s Marvin Gaye.

A few songs would sound just fine on Top-40 radio, including the moody "Pleasure

Done" and the classic soul of "Thank You."

*THE COLLECTION 3*'s the third installment of NMC's immensely successful hit compilation series. US readers may remember the old K-Tel collections which combed the Top-40 airwaves for the most insipid and disposable of hits. *Collection 3* is a little better, and the average 13-year-old listener or MTV viewer will know all the songs by heart.

Tapping guitar rock (Oasis, Meredith Brooks, Suede), synth pop (Depeche Mode, Pet Shop Boys) and teen idols (Ricky Martin, Robbie Williams), the collection provides exactly what there is out there, in 1997, for better or worse.

ANY discussion of Top-40 radio would not be complete without including one of the most successful hit-making bands of all time, Fleetwood Mac.

Like Seventies compatriots the Eagles, who regrouped and released a live album of old and new songs, the Mac Attack got together for a reunion concert this year and a live album, *The Dance*, with the classic Buckingham/Nicks-led lineup which produced their solid gold hits.

The results are a semi-plugged sound, three-part harmonies that match those in their heyday, all the hits and nothing but the hits. "Rhianon," "Say Your Love Me" and "Go Your Own Way" are but a few of the monster smashes that receive reworked but inspired treatments.

There's no reason to buy this except for sheer nostalgia, but it does recall a time when Top-40 radio and quality pop were not mutually exclusive.

FBI surrenders secret files on John Lennon

By HENRY WEINSTEIN

UNDER pressure from a Los Angeles federal judge, the FBI has grudgingly surrendered most of its remaining secret files on Nixon-era surveillance of former Beatle John Lennon, bringing a 16-year legal battle close to conclusion.

The agency has turned over about 40 pages of documents in its investigation of Lennon to University of California, Irvine professor Jonathan M. Wiener, author of a 1984 book on the late rock star.

The FBI had fought for more than a decade to keep the memos secret on grounds including national security. The documents range from reports on Lennon's contacts with anti-war organizers to a description of a talking parrot in an activist's grungy New York apartment.

"This action gives to professor Wiener all but a thumbful of the documents he originally sought," said Mark Rosenbaum, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, co-lead counsel for the professor.

"These documents show that the FBI investigation was conducted in the manner of the shabbiest tabloid journalism imaginable and they show that the FBI had nothing better to do than

record the utterances of a parrot and indulge in gossip and innuendo about rock musicians who happened to take political stances."

Among the documents turned over this week is an April 26, 1972, FBI memo from an unnamed agency source describing a trip by a Madison, Wisconsin, leftist to New York where she met with "Yippie and Zippie representatives," who were planning demonstrations at the August 1972 Republican National Convention.

The memo states that Lennon told the activists that "he will come to the conventions if they are peaceful," and on the condition that his appearance not be advertised in advance.

Los Angeles attorney Dan Marmalefsky, Wiener's co-lead counsel, said that document alone illustrates the spurious nature of the FBI investigation of Lennon.

"The whole ostensible purpose for having Lennon under surveillance was the concern that he would be disrupting the Republican convention in August 1972," he said. "In fact, as the information released to us this week now reveals, the FBI's own informant told them in April 1972 that Lennon would only participate in the demonstrations were peaceful."

Both of Wiener's attorneys said the fact that the FBI withheld the documents for more than a decade shows that the agency has not properly complied with the Freedom of Information Act.

Justice Department spokesman Joe Krovisky disagreed. He said that the department continues to believe that it has never been obligated to relinquish the documents turned over this week, saying they were released on a discretionary basis.

Krovisky also offered an explanation of why the FBI launched its Lennon probe 25 years ago: "The investigation of Lennon was precipitated because a source provided the FBI with information that Lennon was going to contribute and did contribute \$75,000 to an organization which said it was going to disrupt the Republican National Convention in 1972."

"When the FBI got that information it was obligated to check it out."

The files turned over by the FBI include a February 7, 1972, memo stating that a confidential source told the agency Lennon had contributed \$75,000 to assist in the formation of a group called Election Year Strategy Information Center, or EYSEC.

The memo states that the group's purpose was to "direct movement activities during the

coming election year designed to culminate with demonstrations at the Republican National Convention in August, 1972."

Nothing in the documents turned over by the FBI in the case describes Lennon involved in the planning of any illegal act or engaging in any illegal act. Ultimately, he skipped the Republican convention.

The lengthy April 1972 memo also describes the slovenly apartment of a young New York leftist who had trained her parrot to chirp "Right On" whenever a political conversation got particularly lively.

Wiener has won several legal victories against the FBI, including a 1990 decision by a federal appeals court rejecting the FBI's argument that it had to keep documents secret in order to protect federal informants and intelligence methods.

But the case is still not over. Portions of ten documents turned over recently were hacked out and the Justice Dept. contends that it still does not have to turn over 10 remaining documents from its Lennon file.

The government asserts that making public the papers would violate agreements with an undisclosed foreign country - believed to be Britain - that provided information on Lennon. (LA Times)

Succot in Rishon - wine not?

By HELEN KAYE

THE Gashash Hahvir, Avi Kushoir, Margalit Tzan'ani, Bnot Pessia and Gali Atari are a few of the big names leading their glamour and talents to the ninth annual Rishon LeZion Succot Wine Festival, which will be popping its cork on October 20 and 21.

The Carmel Mizrahi winery and the city of Rishon, which put up most of the NIS 1 million budget, always succeed in creating a happening that's fun for the whole family. This year, in honor of Israel's jubilee, the festival will celebrate local vintages and local stars.

The Gashash and Kushoir will be splitting sides in the winery courtyard (tickets NIS 85) with guest stars Gidi Gov one night and singer Eti Anri the next. Special programs include 50 years of Israeli song and two sets of musical programs - "Israeli Harvest" and "Fragrant Land" - with such favorites as David D'Or, Eti Anri, Hakol Over Habibi (with wonderful Shomit Aharon), Saraleb Sharon, and many more, including the debut of yet another Barai offspring, Eyyatar, the younger brother of Orna and Meir.

There will also be a tribute to songwriter Yair Rosenblom, who died last year.

The festival will occupy the entire town center, where the traditional bugle tent succa will be set up. And, for the first time, all of Rothschild Street between Herzl and Jabotinsky will be closed off for a wine-and-food fair, with the participation of some of the country's top restaurants.

There are ticketed events (NIS 40 to NIS 60), but the best part of the Rishon Festival is that the big names also perform on the freebie stages all over town.

The downside is that parking is a problem, but at least it's free for the two nights of the festival. Security will be heavy; all security measures have been coordinated with the Rishon police.

Paul promotes pot

By TARA FITZGERALD

FORMER Beatle Sir Paul McCartney, promoted to the British establishment this year with a knighthood, has recently called for the legalization of cannabis.

"I support decriminalization [of cannabis]. People are smoking pot anyway, to make them criminal is wrong," he said. He added that it was pointless to fill jails with people who smoked cannabis because this would most likely turn them into criminals.

McCarty's comments angered anti-drug campaigners, who said he had ignored the long-term risks involved in taking the drug.

"Cannabis is often hailed as a relatively harmless drug - which compared to opiates it is - but it's not without its risks," said a spokesman for the drug treatment agency Turning Point. "If you spent all day smoking it, you'd never get out of bed."

Medical research shows that cannabis users can develop a psychological dependence on the drug as well as a range of physical problems.

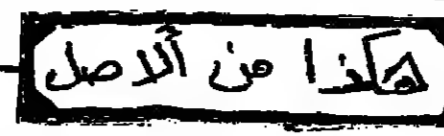
A spokeswoman for the British Home Office said McCarty's comments were "unhelpful."

Citing his own experience of being arrested for possessing marijuana in 1980, McCarty said he learned nothing from it. "When I was jailed in Japan for having pot, there was no attempt at rehabilitation. They just stuck me in a cell for nine days," he said. "Decriminalization would take the sting out of the issue," he added.

The Home Office spokeswoman countered, "It's all very well to speak from a personal point of view, but our position is that no drug is a safe drug. There is no research yet to say that cannabis doesn't have a long-term effect on people," she said. "There is also the issue of whether it is a 'gateway drug' which paves the way toward taking hard drugs."

Better known nowadays for his clean-living vegetarian lifestyle, McCarty told his official biographer that he had been "turned on to pot" by Bob Dylan in 1964.

He also said it was he who introduced Rolling Stone Mick Jagger to the drug two years later in London. Jagger denied the story. (Reuters)



CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
Accordianist Yevgeny Michaelko, with Boris Karelin on the balalaika and Vladimir Kondratiev on the duma, perform this evening (6) at the Tel Aviv Museum Jerusalem as part of the museum's ongoing Music in the Galleries program.



The Adl Flute Quartet plays chamber music by Paul Ben-Haim. (Arthur Berger)

THEATER

HELEN KAYE
Two Cameri productions are in Haifa tonight. Edna Mazia's A Family Affair, his trip through s German Jewish family's psyche from 1938 to the present, is on the Haifa Theater mainstage.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

Trees Lounge - Most often typecast as a fink, a loser, or worse, Steve Buscemi makes no attempt in this film, his writing/directing/starring debut, to buff or alter his image. If anything, the part he plays here is especially unflattering: Tommy Basilio is a jobless and shiftless-eyed Long Island local who spends most of his time at a rundown neighborhood bar, drinking himself into a stupor.

TELEVISION

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
This is a hot operatic week on Channel 8. Tomorrow (10 a.m.) you can see Tippett's Greek mythology-based opera Iphigeneia. On Thursday (9:30 p.m.) you can enjoy the classic Puccini production of Mozart's delightful Le nozze di Figaro with Mirella Freni as Susanna and Kiri Te Kanawa as the Comtesse Almaviva among others.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
9:31 News in Arabic
9:45 Good Morning Israel
18:35 Coach
19:00 The Encounter
20:10 The Nature of Things

EDUCATIONAL TV

9:00 Group One Medical
9:30 Art Workshop
6:00 Science and Nature
10:00 Programs for the young young
11:00 English
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Cartoons
15:00 Auto

CHANNEL 1

15:30 The Pink Panther
16:50 Super Ben
18:00 Dennis and Gnat
19:25 Super Ben
19:30 The Mask
20:00 The New Evening
17:34 News in English
17:50 Basketball: Maccabi Tel Aviv vs CSKA Moscow - live from Moscow

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Cartoons
7:00 Breakfast Magazine
9:00 Meetings
11:00 Mission Impossible
12:00 Basic Arabic
12:30 Erud Bylton's The Mountain of Adventure - part 2
13:00 Riding High
13:30 Zombi
14:00 Home and Away

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (ppt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sings
6:00 Sunset Beach (ppt)
9:00 One Life to Live (ppt)
6:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Lives (ppt)
11:15 Zingara (ppt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
13:40 Frasier
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:40 Ricki Lake (ppt)
16:30 One Life to Live
16:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Dreams of Youth - new Israeli teen drama taking place in a community center.

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed)

13:00 Holy Koran
13:35 French program

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 American Friends (1993) - a repressed Oxford boy meets two American women on a vacation in Switzerland and finds his outlook on life changing. With Helen Mirren, Anthony Edwards

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
18:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:25 Madeline
17:45 Babar the Elephant
18:10 Beakman's World
18:35 Saved by the Bell
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 The New Evening
23:00 CNN
23:30 The 700 Club

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

19:00 Cartoons
16:30 The Hunter and the Snake
17:30 Panel discussion
18:00 The Tyrant
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 The X-Files
20:45 Kavaragh, O.C.
22:00 Showcase
22:30 Telesport
23:00 Cinema 3

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Echo Point
16:00 News Writing
18:30 Writing Science - Arabic
17:00 OliveWood - children's program in Arabic
17:30 Exploring
18:00 The X-Files
18:30 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Group One
19:30 Mirror
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Octane
21:00 Montparnasse
21:30 Growing Old in a New Age
23:00 The Onedin Line

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
6:30 Magic Schoolbus
9:25 Little Bear
9:40 Make Believe Closet
10:05 Sonic
10:35 David the Gnome
11:05 Ninja Turtles
12:00 Hillside
12:15 Kirk
13:00 Nature Knows Best
13:40 Surprise Garden
14:05 Treasure Island
14:25 The Cat
15:05 National Geographic
15:35 Bureau of Alien Detectors
16:05 Hillside
16:35 Clairissa
17:10 Chiquititas
18:00 Sweet Valley High
18:30 Make Believe
19:00 David the Gnome
19:30 Helen and the Boys
20:00 There's Company
20:25 Married with Children
20:45 Rosanne
21:20 The Cosby Show
21:45 Different World
10:00 European Money Wheel
14:30 CNBC US
15:00 Soccer: ATP Tour
16:00 Wine Cellar
16:30 Dream Builders

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:10 The Perfect

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Murder (1988) - e police inspector investigates the latest assassination of a construction tycoon, while being distracted by other cases and domestic problems.

6:00 Open University
8:05 Hong Kong (ppt)
8:40 Travelogue: Japan (ppt)
9:05 Cultural Cities of China (ppt)
10:00 La Bayadere - ballet by Rudolf Nureyev

8:30 The Wonder Years
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 E! TV
6:30 Family Ties
9:00 Nine to Five
9:30 The X-Files
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
11:00 Santa Barbara
12:00 WWF Superstars
13:00 The Wonder Years
13:30 Arts Update
14:00 Hitn' programs
17:30 Star News
18:00 Some Mothers Do 'Aven' Em
18:30 Space: Above and Beyond
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
19:30 Santa Barbara
21:00 Star News
21:30 Baywatch
22:30 Dynasty
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Oprah Winfrey
1:30 21 Jump Street

8:30 Bodies in Motion
18:30 National Women's Basketball
19:00 Fabulous World of Speed
16:30 English Soccer - Partisan Belgrade vs. Hajduk Split
21:40 Basketball: Korac Cup - opening games of Gali Elyon and Maccabi Rishon
23:30 South American Soccer

6:00 VIP
6:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw
7:00 MSNBC News
8:00 Today Show
9:00 European Squawk Box
10:00 European Money Wheel
14:30 CNBC US
15:00 Soccer: ATP Tour
22:00 Soccer: UEFA cup
00:00 Showjumping

6:30 Olympic Magazine
9:00 Cycling: Nations Open
10:30 Speedworld Magazine
12:00 Eurogoals
13:30 Superstars World Series
14:30 Volleyball
17:30 4x4 Offroad
19:00 Tennis: ATP Tour
22:00 Soccer: UEFA cup
00:00 Showjumping

6:30 Olympic Magazine
9:00 Cycling: Nations Open
10:30 Speedworld Magazine
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13:30 Superstars World Series
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17:30 4x4 Offroad
19:00 Tennis: ATP Tour
22:00 Soccer: UEFA cup
00:00 Showjumping



CRITIC CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include '6 Still without a subject for discussion?' and '11 Boat obtainable for a pound in Ireland?'.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include '1 Cat's paw' and '12 He's skilled in manoeuvres?'.

MOVIES section listing various films and their showtimes, including 'JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE' and 'Eilat Cinema'.

NEWS

in brief

Histadrut threatens more strikes after holiday

A day after an eight-hour general strike that crippled the country, Histadrut leaders yesterday threatened more sanctions after Rosh Hashana...

Holon high school teachers protest

Secondary school teachers in Holon will stay out of class from 10 to 11 this morning to protest an incident last week when a teacher at the city's Mitrani High School was struck by a parent...

Hammer wants A-G's opinion on Channel 2 move

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that he would seek an opinion from Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein on the legality of the decision by the Second Television and Radio Authority Council to advance the date for determining the future of Channel 2 franchises...

To decide two years before the end of the franchise is unreasonable, and while we do not wish to interfere in the franchisee's or council's legal status or decision making, they have to understand that the government's acceptance of the Peled Commission recommendations has changed the local communications map...

Munich Olympic athletes memorialized

A memorial was held in Tel Aviv yesterday for the 11 athletes killed by terrorists at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Among the attendees were President Ezer Weizman...

Blood donors needed

Blood donors are asked to give before Rosh Hashana or at least not to leave it until after the end of Succot, due to seasonal shortages during the High Holy Days...

Lily Maor gets German Order of Merit

Lily Maor, founder of the association of the survivors of Oberheide, yesterday received the German Order of Merit from German Ambassador Theodor Wallau...



Dates for the premier Children from the Jordan Valley present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara with a box of dates and flowers for Rosh Hashana at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday.

Strike forces surgeon to operate in underwear

The deputy head of Wolfson Hospital's ophthalmology department had to perform an emergency operation wearing only his underpants on Sunday night, because he lacked a sterile gown due to the strike by government hospital maintenance staff...

Striking hospitals in squalor

Stacks of dirty laundry, kitchens overflowing with trays filled with rotting food, and bathrooms that have not seen a scrub brush in days, decorated with drops of blood from intravenous drips that have been pulled out - these were the scenes that greeted those unfortunate enough to need the services of government hospitals yesterday...

Prof. Ya'acov Hart, head of the Hospital Directors' Association, said that the "Treasury has decided to torture hospitals and the whole health system. We won't allow two officials who decided to destroy our health system - which this year was ranked as second best in the world by The Economist - to succeed."

Matza has already won support in his struggle from Knesset Finance Committee chairman, Avraham Ravitz and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. The hospital directors warned that issuing back-to-work orders would not resolve the issue...

Earlier, Matza, informed that all state hospitals would have to be shut down soon if the sanitation, food, and laundry problem continues, called Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who told Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman...

Patients at Ichilov praised the medical workers for continuing to provide quality care under the difficult conditions, though it's worsening sanitary conditions have them concerned and angry. With no kitchen staff, they were eating ready-made meals with plastic utensils.

Those who were being cared for on an emergency basis said that they were pleased that the strike had not affected these medical services. Michal and Shuda Ben-Avram's newborn daughter is being cared for in the hospital's department for premature infants.

"Everything in her ward is fine," said Michal. "The place is being kept clean for the babies, and the team is taking good care of her." However, those who were waiting for scheduled operations were warned that if the strike continues tomorrow, the procedures may not take place.

"It's not a good feeling sitting around here and seeing how empty the place is," said Salma Haba from Tel Aviv. Haba, child hospital pajamas, was admitted yesterday for a heart bypass operation scheduled for today.

"Knowing I'm going to have an operation is hard enough, so the dirty condition of the hospital doesn't make it any easier - but this uncertainty is the worst. I wish I could be certain that I was going to have the operation any day in two days it will be behind me. But with this strike, nobody knows."

Meanwhile, the Israel Medical Association is continuing its strike - now in its third week - due to the Treasury's failure to implement an agreement increasing doctors' job slots by 360 over the next four years it signed last March.

Weather forecast table for various cities including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, and Dead Sea.

Around the World table showing low, high, and precipitation forecasts for various international cities.

Winning cards In yesterday's early Chance drawings, the winning cards were the Jack of spades, King of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and 7 of clubs...

Olmert to announce future plans

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was acquitted of campaign funding violations on Sunday, said yesterday he will disclose his plans for his political future after the High Holy Days.

Olmert, touted as a future Likud candidate for prime minister, told Israel Television: "Everything I have to say on the subject I will say after the holidays in an orderly, open, and public fashion."

Olmert's wife Aliza asserted yesterday in response to her husband's acquittal that he was indicted as part of a "go get 'em" campaign waged against right-wingers by then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair.



JEWISH WEEKLY PLANNER 1997 - 1998



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Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Monday Oct. 6 THE WARM SMELL OF FRESH BREAD We're going to spend a wonderful day in the Galilee seeing how the "staff of life" is prepared in different cultures...

Sunday Oct. 12 A WATERWALK WITH JOEL ROSKIN Join geologist, geographer and well-known tour writer Joel Roskin on a fabulous waterwalk through Nahal Zalmon and the Jordan River canyon...

Monday Nov. 3 THE STORIES OF SAFED When Rabbi Yitzhak Luria, known as the Ari, walked through Safed's narrow streets, not a day passed without a miracle...

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all four tours...

US Jews feel more threatened by antisemitism than intermarriage

Antisemitism, not intermarriage, is still considered the primary threat to the American Jewish community by most US Jews, according to a recent poll conducted by the American Jewish Committee.

The poll also showed a significant increase in support for Binyamin Netanyahu since he became prime minister, although it did not transfer to either the Likud or settlers.

However the poll, taken in February, preceded the conversion bill issue and incidents at the Western Wall which may cut into that support.

The poll, by Market Facts Inc. included a sample of 1,160 Jews. Nine percent identified themselves as Orthodox, 31% Conservative, 32% Reform, 1% Reconstructionist, and 26% as "just Jewish."

It found that significantly more American Jews believe antisemitism will only worsen, and that Muslims and the "Religious Right" are the most antisemitic groups.

When asked: "Do you think that antisemitism in the US is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all," 40% answered very serious, 35% somewhat of a problem, 5% not a problem, and 1% were not sure.

Asked if antisemitism would increase greatly, somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly over the next several years, 39% said it would increase, 10% decrease, 48% remain the same, and 2% were not sure.

After the Moslems and Religious Right, fundamentalist Protestants and blacks are viewed as most antisemitic. A total of 27% see moslems (7%) or many (20%) blacks as antisemitic, while 16% believe very few or none hold such views, according to the poll.

However, belief that antisemitism is a very serious problem is stronger among older Jews, those with lower incomes and less education, those who feel being Jewish is "very important" in their lives, and those who feel closer to Israel.

Similarly, the view that antisemitism poses a greater threat than intermarriage is slightly higher among older, less educated members of the population, and those who identified themselves as Reform or "just Jewish." Intermarriage is seen as more of a threat by the better educated, those whose Orthodox, and those married to Jews.

American Jewish Committee Israel/Middle East office director Yossi Alpher said the perceived threat of antisemitism is "quite striking, especially considering that our perception is that America has overcome antisemitism. 'Apparent' however, when you scratch the surface of American Jews, they're still afraid of antisemitism. This is still something that preoccupies people. It's a built-in reactive passed on from earlier generations," he said.

Alpher said the rise in popularity of Net of Islam leader Louis Farrakan and the stated goal of some American Baptist groups to try to convert Jews contributes to these fears.